

Charity Registration No. 214927
Company Registration No. 738693 (England & Wales)

**THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED AND
ITS SUBSIDIARY COMPANY**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION

Trustees	H Carey(resigned November 2021) R Collins (appointed November 2021) S Henshall S Judd R H Marrs (resigned November 2021) C Neame J Richards (appointed November 2021) S Ridsdale J Roscoe P Rushton W Stothart (Chair) C Swarbrick
Secretary	C Harris
Chief Executive	C Harris
Registered office	Bickley Hall Farm Bickley Malpas Cheshire SY14 8EF
Charity number	214927
Company number	738693
Auditors	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor 3 rd Floor 44 Peter Street Manchester M2 5GP
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors	Gough-Thomas & Scott 8 Willow Street Ellesmere Shropshire SY12 0AQ

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CONTENTS PAGE

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

	Page
Chair's Report	1
Trustees' Report	2–22
Independent Auditor's Report	23–26
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	27
Consolidated Balance Sheet	28
Company Balance Sheet	29
Statement of Cash Flow	30
Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts	31–50

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CHAIR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

CWT continues to work for wildlife and nature in Cheshire, Wirral, Stockport, Trafford, Tameside, Warrington and Halton, and has grown its impact in response to the environmental crises. I am proud of and delighted with the achievements and performance of the Trust this year.

In the previous year, 2020/21, the Covid-19 pandemic dominated everything, and the Trust performed extremely well to sustain the organisation through the restrictions and financial challenges, and to maintain its activities and to pursue its objectives where possible. Activity and turnover were marginally below the year before.

The year being reported on here is 2021/22 (April 2021 to March 2022), and this was effectively a transition year out of the Covid-19 restrictions, which were largely removed in July 2021. Once again, the Trust was able to pursue its objectives more vigorously and fully, with the result that turnover increased from c. £2.3m in 2020/21 to c. 2.7m in 2021/22. Financial turnover is a crude proxy for the environmental benefit that is the Trust's true objective, but the 17% growth is a valid measure of activity. The Trust's environmental impact is as impressive as the financial growth, as shown by the achievements against targets included in this set of financial statements.

My personal highlights were:

- ☐ The purchase of Saltersford Farm in August 2021, using an innovative funding model supported by a public appeal. This was 50 acres of intensively farmed land which we will now manage in a way that allows nature to recover there. The funding model is groundbreaking and put CWT in the forefront of Wildlife Trusts in the UK. We hope now to be able to repeat this with regular further purchases, and you will have seen an appeal for CWT's 60th anniversary in 2022 which would support the creation of a new reserve using the same model.
- ☐ Watching the progress of the beavers reintroduced to Hatchmere at the end of 2020. During 2021/22 they successfully settled in and started to engineer their own environment. Most notably, in three weeks in November the pair of beavers created a dam of almost 50m, which has transformed the site. The site is now much wetter (water levels higher by 75cm), improving water quality, and is capable of storing more carbon and providing other environmental benefits. We still need more public awareness of the environmental benefits beavers bring. I am delighted Wildlife Trusts across the country are promoting that awareness and hope to see beavers roaming freely in the future.

Further detail on the achievements and performance of the Trust is shown in the Strategic Report from page 6 and the financial review from page 17.

The Trust returned a surplus for the sixth successive year and is financially sound.

We continue to face a biodiversity crisis and a climate crisis. Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and Wildlife Trusts across the country, have a critical role in engaging and energising people to play an active part in combatting these challenges and enabling nature's recovery. Your continued support is both valued and essential.

We need more space for wildlife, and more people on nature's side.

Bill Stothart

Bill Stothart
Chair

Date: 19 October 2022

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) – Accounting and Reporting by provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (effective 1 January 2019).

Strategic overview

Cheshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and wild places in the Cheshire region.

Formed in 1962 by volunteers, Cheshire Wildlife Trust is one of 46 independent charities, which together form the UK-wide Wildlife Trust movement. The Trust benefits from the support of over 18,000 members and over 300 volunteers, is governed by a 10-strong Board of Trustees and currently employs 62 dedicated staff. We are passionate about securing a future for local wildlife on land and at sea and work as part of the Wildlife Trust movement to influence decision making for nature at the highest level nationally.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is required by charity and company law to act within the objects of its Memorandum of Association, which are as follows:



1. ☐ To promote and deliver the conservation, protection, improvement and expansion of the physical and natural environment, for the benefit of wildlife and the public of the United Kingdom; particularly in the Vice County 58 (the traditional County Palatine of Chester) and adjacent areas.
2. ☐ To advance the education and engagement of the public in the principles and practice of:
 - a. ☐ Biodiversity conservation and enhancement;
 - b. ☐ Sustainable living and development;
 - c. ☐ Nature-based health and wellbeing initiatives; and
 - d. ☐ Natural capital, and its protection, restoration and value to society.
3. ☐ To promote research in all branches of relevant scientific study and to publish the useful results thereof.

In 2020 we launched our 2030 Strategy: Wilder Cheshire. The full strategy is available on our website <https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/2030> with a summary below:

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



Our vision is for a Wilder Cheshire

Our mission is to bring wildlife back – for everyone, everywhere – and we urgently need your help.

We have reached a tipping point. By 2030, we must see nature recovering, wildlife returning and ecosystems restored. We can't defer; we can't wait for more data or better reasons to act. The evidence is already there and we know what to do. If we delay, the damage will be irreversible. If we wait until the impacts of environmental breakdown are upon us – that is until we witness the rising sea levels, personally suffer the effects of pollution or notice the lack of birdsong – it will be too late.

Putting nature into recovery must be what we turn all our efforts to now; it has to be the priority.

It won't be easy. This is a complex challenge; the next 10 years will be just the start, but we can do it.

Our strategy is focused on tackling three crises:

Wildlife is in crisis – Let's fight for wildlife's recovery.

Outcome: At least 30% of the land and sea in the UK needs to be managed for nature so that missing wildlife will return. We want to see more and better connected wild spaces and the pressures on the environment reduced.

Why? Nature today is not normal. Since the 1930s, species-rich wildflower meadows have become virtually extinct; since the 1950s, we have lost over half the abundance of all species across the UK; since the 1970s, there's been a 60% fall in vertebrates globally. Elsewhere, recent reports tell us that insect populations have collapsed by 75% between 1990 and 2014. In the UK, we have lost half of our farmland birds in one generation.

Cheshire is not immune to these trends. Less than 10% of our region is protected for wildlife. The few places where a rich diversity of life can still be found are nature reserves and special wildlife sites. Without these havens, the picture would be even worse, but they are too small and are under siege from a host of external pressures. There are simply not enough of these precious places left to save biodiversity.

Climate is in crisis – Let's make nature part of the solution.

Outcome: Resilient nature will help combat climate change. We need more carbon to be locked up in our plants and soils and to restore broken ecosystems.

Why? We are facing a climate crisis and nature is a big part of the solution. Healthy ecosystems and restored habitats will help us play our part in delivering the UN's Paris Agreement to tackle the climate emergency.

Our vast peatlands should protect us. They offer the largest land-based carbon store in the world, but we have drained and burned and cut them – releasing their carbon into the atmosphere. They

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



have become a carbon enemy – contributing 4% of the UK's annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Our woodlands should protect us. Trees are an effective weapon against the climate crisis, but we are not planting enough of them. Average woodland cover in the EU is over 40%. In the UK, it is 13% and in Cheshire it is less than 7%. Our insistence on prioritising other land use denies us the benefits of woodland which extend beyond carbon sequestration to biodiversity and emotional wellbeing.

Our soils should protect us. UK soils store 10 billion tonnes of carbon – equivalent to 80 years of our annual greenhouse gas emissions – but unless we change how we farm, we will lose this benefit. In the pursuit of ever-cheaper food, we have already stripped our soils of over half of their carbon.

Our wetlands should protect us. They are nature's flood defences and they hold twice as much carbon as our woodland; however, we have drained them and replaced them with farms, houses and roads. We have turned our rivers against us. We have filled them with chemicals, enclosed them underground and straightened, deepened and constrained them. As the climate crisis pours more water onto our land, it has nowhere to go. It rushes into our towns and cities, and overflows onto our streets.

We are in crisis – Let's have more people on nature's side.

Outcome: Our wellbeing and economy relies on a healthy, natural environment. We need everyone to be passionate about wildlife and at least 1 in 4 people to be taking action for nature's recovery.

Why? Our disconnect with nature is snowballing with each passing generation. The less parents know, the less they can teach their own children about their natural world. New generations grow up more and more distant from the natural world around them. They are starved of the opportunity to enjoy the wonder of wildlife and to understand their place amongst nature. They do not miss it when it disappears, and so it continues to slip away unnoticed. When we lose our connection with nature, mental health problems, obesity and isolation rise.

Meanwhile, businesses suffer when we don't take care of our natural environment and we pay the price. Our utility bills are higher because we need to clean our water. Our food bills are rising because farming is not sustainable. The costs of flood damage are devastating where nature's defences fail. The social and economic impact of our apathy towards dealing with these issues is huge and growing. Those living furthest from nature, often the poorest, suffer most. We are facing a nature deficiency pandemic.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

□

We will deliver our strategy through a 10-point plan:

1. □ Protect places where wildlife lives
2. □ Bring wildlife back to our land and sea
3. □ Create a society that cares about nature
4. □ Work with farmers so wildlife can thrive
5. □ Embrace wildlife as our neighbour in our towns and cities
6. □ Grow our stores of natural carbon
7. □ Build a network of people campaigning for nature
8. □ Make our rivers cleaner and healthier
9. □ Make planning and policies give more to nature than they take away
10. □ Collaborate with people who share our passion for wildlife

This 10-point plan is underpinned by a further strategic goal to ensure that Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) is effective and resilient, delivered through the following three programmes:

1. Financing the future
2. High-performing Team CWT
3. Well-run organisation

Public benefit statement

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 its charitable objects as outlined above.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



Strategic report

The information below, including the review of achievements and performance, financial review, risk management statement and summary of future plans, forms the Strategic Report for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006.

Achievements and performance

Our charitable objects are the drivers behind our 2030 strategic framework. Our achievements and performance are reported against each of the four strategic outcomes.

1. Wildlife is in crisis: Below is a summary of our nature recovery programme to bring about 30% of land in Cheshire protected and well managed for wildlife by 2030 and to see the abundance and diversity of wildlife increase.

What we planned for FY22	Some of the things we did in FY22	What we have planned for FY23
Landscape Scale Delivery: Continue to develop and scale up the Nature Recovery Team to deliver greater impact. Submit the second round application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a 3.5-year project and, if successful, begin delivery in winter 2021.	<p>We further grew our capacity and expertise within the Nature Recovery Team. This allowed us to progress delivery of our 30 by 30 vision through direct land management as well as advising and supporting others.</p> <p>We purchased 50 acres of intensively managed farmland at Saltersford Farm to create a new nature reserve. The purchase was funded through generous donations from our members combined with a loan from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.</p> <p>Our application to NLHF was successful and the Our Dee Estuary project started in early 2022. We recruited our project team and began our programme of volunteering, citizen science and conservation work around the estuary.</p>	<p>Raise funds to repay the loan through the sale of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) credits and habitat creation grants.</p> <p>Purchase and plan the restoration of another new nature reserve to celebrate our 60th birthday.</p> <p>Continue the citizen science programme for natterjack toads, grayling butterflies and little terns, support schools in achieving the John Muir Award, run events celebrating the Dee Estuary, and work with dog owners to reduce disturbance to wading birds.</p> <p>We will start the delivery of the Environmental Measures on the Aldford Brook project – a three-year project to create and restore 20ha of wetland and 14km of riverbank, and to plant over 7,000 trees.</p>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



<p>We plan to raise £50,000 through member and major donor contributions to continue our work in the Cheshire Peaks area.</p>	<p>We raised £52,225 from a major donor and other supporters in this year. Combined with donations from the previous year, this gave a total of £61,225 available for work in the Cheshire Peaks area. The funds have been allocated to our curlew recovery project (see <i>Species Recovery</i> section) and used to create/restore 3ha of wildflower meadows in the landscape.</p>	<p>(See <i>Species Recovery</i> section)</p>
<p>We will create 25 management plans for farms in the Bollin catchment and improve water quality and restore habitats in the headwaters of the River Dane.</p>	<p>We created 25 water management plans for farms in the Bollin catchment and delivered a series of capital projects to improve water quality in both the Bollin and Dane catchments.</p>	<p>We will create a further 15 water management plans for landowners in the Dane catchment in partnership with United Utilities to help identify opportunities for improving water quality and increasing the value of the land for wildlife.</p>
<p>Nature Reserve Management:</p> <p>We will finalise the transfer of the Hatchmere extension into our ownership.</p> <p>We will continue to manage Crown Farm Quarry in line with the restoration plan.</p> <p>We will create a further 2.6ha of flower-rich grassland at Gowy Meadows using seed collected from our donor meadows across Cheshire.</p>	<p>This matter remains in progress.</p> <p>Crown Farm Quarry continues to be managed in line with the agreed management plan. Newly restored parts of the quarry are developing well and we have completed a project to make the site suitable for the introduction of grazing animals.</p> <p>Over 2.6ha of species-rich wildflower grassland has been created at Gowy Meadows through Severn Trent's Boost for Biodiversity project. The wildflower seed has established well and is providing a fantastic home for pollinators.</p>	<p>Acquire additional land to further our 30 by 30 vision.</p> <p>Devise the next two-year management plan, workplan and costings and manage and monitor the site in line with the agreed management plan.</p> <p>We will improve the condition of 30ha of floodplain grazing marsh at Gowy Meadows through the creation of scrapes and footdrains and upgrade of water control sluices.</p>
<p>Species Recovery:</p> <p>Create and restore a further 100 ponds for great crested newts, on our own land and in partnership with farmers and other landowners.</p>	<p>We created and restored 70 ponds (in line with Natural England's (NE) work package order).</p>	<p>We will create a further 50 ponds under the district licensing scheme and continue our monitoring of ponds created to date.</p>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



<p>Restore a further 10ha of grassland to species-rich meadow using green hay and seed harvested from donor sites.</p> <p>Monitor the impact of the beavers on the wet woodland habitat and explore licensing options for a second reintroduction scheme in another part of Cheshire.</p> <p>Continue to look for sources of funding and work towards an expanding population of white-faced darter dragonflies throughout Delamere Forest and the surrounding area.</p> <p>Using money raised from our Cheshire Peak District appeal, devise a curlew recovery plan ready for the 2022 breeding season. We will also join the English Curlew Partnership.</p> <p>Deliver the Wild Stockport project and create space for pollinators in Stockport, install swift boxes and create hedgehog streets.</p>	<p>We created and restored 11.2 ha of species-rich hay meadows working with a variety of landowners.</p> <p>Beavers have had a fantastic impact on the wet woodland habitat at Hatchmere, and the site looks completely different to 12 months ago. They have created dams and gullies to hold water throughout the site, attenuating floods, improving water quality and creating new wetland habitat.</p> <p>Our work continued throughout 2021/22 to continue to monitor the growing white-faced darter populations. We delivered a full monitoring programme and administered the White-faced Darter Steering Group meeting.</p> <p>We joined the English Curlew Partnership and have also led a South West Peak Curlew Partnership with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Natural England and other landowners and interested parties. Scoping work has been undertaken to inform a Curlew Action Plan, with a citizen-science approach to monitoring through iRecord, a webinar for residents of South West Peak and discussions with landowners.</p> <p>The Wild Stockport project achieved (and exceeded in some cases) all of its objectives and over the year the team developed strong relationships with local organisations and Stockport residents using social media, workshops and school visits. We also created videos to help local communities take action for nature.</p>	<p>Create and restore a further 18ha of species-rich hay meadow.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor the impact beavers are having in the enclosure, and we will work in partnership with other landowners and statutory bodies to create a Cheshire Beaver Partnership to assess the impact of new legislation governing beaver releases and create a coordinated Cheshire-wide release strategy.</p> <p>Continued surveying of the white-faced darter population in Delamere Forest aimed at identifying emergence and presence within an increasing number of basins.</p> <p>We will progress the SWP Curlew Partnership and engage with local farmers and landowners. We will carry out feasibility studies to plan a programme of capital works to create wetland habitat to benefit curlew, along with commissioning a baseline population assessment and trialling innovative monitoring techniques such as drone surveying.</p> <p>Inspire people across Stockport – individuals, businesses, community groups and schools – to take action for nature through the Rewilding Stockport project, building a community nature reserve.</p>
--	--	---

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



<p>Continue to monitor natterjack toad populations and work with Amphibian and Reptile Conservation to explore expanding populations in the Dee Estuary.</p> <p>Continue to monitor grayling butterflies to understand more about their distribution and habitat needs.</p>	<p>New pools for natterjacks created at Red Rocks. Sites were monitored in spring 2022. Unfortunately, exceptional tides led to the loss of many spawn strings at Red Rocks. Other sites around the estuary fared better.</p> <p>We successfully translocated sea holly plants at Red Rocks to increase habitat for grayling.</p>	<p>We will continue to monitor natterjack pools and undertake habitat improvements to ensure the long-term future of the population.</p> <p>We will continue to carry out surveys to monitor the population and its distribution, threats and opportunities for expansion.</p>
<p>Evidence & Planning:</p> <p>Provide advice on 4,000ha of land through our responses to planning applications and protect core sites and wildlife corridors through Neighbourhood Plan policy adoption.</p> <p>We will review the HS2 biodiversity metrics on behalf of The Wildlife Trusts; continue to campaign for the government to Stop and Rethink HS2; respond to consultations and hold HS2 to account with regards to Biodiversity Net Gain.</p>	<p>We have provided advice and/or consultation responses for approximately 610ha of land. Much of the advice has been focused on securing Biodiversity Net Gain on large housing and commercial developments in the region. We were instrumental in securing commuted sum payments for biodiversity compensation totalling over £800k and we have provided significant input on policy and allocation sites for new Local Plans in Warrington, Halton, Wirral and Greater Manchester Combined Authorities.</p> <p>We've identified and/or surveyed 165ha of potential Local Wildlife Sites ready for designation in FY23. We've worked on two Neighbourhood Planning reports and identified wildlife corridors for protection under NP policies.</p> <p>We have completed a detailed analysis of publicly available HS2 environmental data to develop an understanding of whether the scheme is meeting its commitments to biodiversity.</p>	<p>Provide advice and/or consultation responses for 3,000ha of land through our Neighbourhood Plan work.</p> <p>Provide input on at least three major local policy consultations.</p> <p>Work with at least 10 separate developers to improve the quality of BNG metrics submitted to support planning applications.</p> <p>Progress the designation of at least 165ha of Local Wildlife Site quality land.</p> <p>Continue to support the protection of wildlife corridors through Neighbourhood Plans.</p> <p>Use the analysis of HS2 environmental data to hold HS2 Ltd to account and campaign for better outcomes for nature. Respond to the Phase 2b environmental statement and petition to select committee if necessary.</p>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



<p>We will deliver bespoke training packages to local authorities. We will continue to respond to planning policy consultations and support Natural England and the local authorities on the development of Nature Recovery Strategies.</p> <p>We will develop a suite of training courses to deliver across the Wildlife Trust movement and through CIEEM to consultant ecologists nationally. We will work with developers and local authorities to ensure high-quality schemes are delivered.</p> <p>We will continue to secure positive outcomes for wildlife. We will focus on Biodiversity Net Gain as the main mechanism to achieve this.</p>	<p>We've delivered Biodiversity Net Gain training to the majority of Lancashire planning authorities as well as Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cheshire East Council. We've responded to Local Plan consultations for Greater Manchester and Warrington and by engaging at an early stage we've been influential, especially with regards to BNG policies. We've engaged with Stockport's climate summit.</p> <p>We've developed a suite of training courses and webinars and delivered training to 60+ staff from various Wildlife Trusts across the country. We represented The Wildlife Trusts on Biodiversity Net Gain sounding boards and secured positive changes that make the roll-out of the scheme more robust.</p> <p>We've worked with over 10 developers on their BNG schemes and input into three national consultations.</p> <p>We've secured the first BNG scheme at Saltersford Hall Farm and ensured that it meets all of the requirements to deliver the agreed number of BNG units. We've produced a full BNG Report and Management Plan for Chat Moss for the Greater Manchester Environment Fund project.</p>	<p>Work closely with local authorities and other bodies to support the creation of a Cheshire region Local Nature Recovery Strategy.</p> <p>We will continue to deliver training courses on BNG to a variety of audiences to generate income and to raise standards in the industry. This will result in better outcomes for biodiversity at a national level and help secure demand for biodiversity units to help fund nature recovery strategies across the UK.</p> <p>We will input in a national consultation on the new BNG metric and continue to sit on the BNG metric working group chaired by NE.</p> <p>We will acquire a further site for BNG unit sales and look to develop BNG marketing and support to maximise sales.</p> <p>We will continue to use our experience to influence the roll out of BNG regionally and nationally through advocacy and training and through the development of a new BNG partnership project across Greater Manchester.</p>
--	--	--

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



2. Climate is in crisis: Below is a summary of our climate adaptation and resilience programme which aims to see nature play its full part in addressing the climate crisis and CWT achieve at least net zero by 2030.

What we planned for FY22	Some of the things we did in FY22	What we have planned for FY23
Net Zero CWT: Create a carbon reduction plan to achieve at least net zero by 2030.	We completed our carbon reduction plan and formed a working group to oversee its implementation.	Introduce an Electric Vehicle scheme and agile working policy for staff to reduce the carbon footprint arising from staff travel. Carry out a review of land management with emissions reduction and avoidance in mind.
Wetland & Watercourse Restoration: Complete an analysis of the peatland within Cheshire East. Develop a project to restore agricultural peat soils. Complete a further 50 farm water management plans and implement £150,000 of improvement projects to improve the quality of Cheshire's watercourses.	Report published jointly with Cheshire East Council containing an analysis of emissions and restoration potential across 3,603ha of peat soils: Peatlands of Cheshire East. Due to a number of unforeseen reasons we fell short of the original 50 farm water management plans and completed 28 in total.	Progress the actions in the Peatlands of Cheshire East report to bring about the restoration of peatland soils. Complete an analysis of peatland in Cheshire West. Complete a further 15 farm water surveys in the headwaters of the Dane on behalf of United Utilities with a view to identifying interventions to improve water quality.
Woodland Creation & Restoration: Begin delivery of a Trees for Cheshire project to create 200ha of woodland over four years.	We began our Trees for Cheshire project in November 2021 and created 10.91ha of new woodland and identified further sites and negotiated landowner agreements ready for planting in the 2022/23 winter season.	We will continue working with The Mersey Forest and City of Trees to create 100ha of woodland.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



3. We are in crisis: Below is a summary of our communications, engagement and mobilisation programme aimed at creating a society that cares about wildlife and where 1 in 4 people are taking action for nature by 2030.

What we planned for FY22	Some of the things we did in FY22	What we have planned for FY23
<p>Education & Public Engagement:</p> <p>Gradually resume events and community engagement activities as restrictions ease.</p> <p>Launch a new approach to engagement focused much more on mobilising large numbers of people to take action for nature.</p>	<p>We attended RHS Tatton, Chester Zoo Wildlife Connections Festival, Designed by Nature Storyhouse events and the Royal Cheshire Show as well as hosting a variety of walks and talks engaging with 1,921 people physically. In addition, we developed and executed our very own 'Wilder Weekend' event in Macclesfield, partnering with local community groups and champions, through which we not only engaged 1,760 people but also created two wildflower meadows/strips, worked with nine local schools and ran activities such as nature crafts and wellbeing walks to connect people to nature.</p> <p>We hosted five online webinars reaching a further 463 people.</p> <p>10,000 trees were planted with communities across Cheshire East.</p> <p>As schools began to ease restrictions we began hosting school trips to nature reserves, delivering forest school sessions on site as part of the PPL funded 'Wild Warrington' project, and launched the 'Wilder Schools network'.</p> <p>We began our new community organising approach to engagement, inspiring and supporting more people to take action through targeted campaigns and through building the capacity of champions.</p>	<p>Attend large-scale Cheshire events as well as reach new audiences through attendance at arts/culture events and our own Wilder Weekends.</p> <p>Continue to build the Wilder Schools network, extending our reach and inspiring action in school grounds.</p> <p>Using a community organising approach, inspire communities within Crewe to take action for nature – driving a people-powered nature recovery network.</p>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



<p>Celebrate our 60th anniversary.</p> <p>Support at least 12,000 people to take action for wildlife, including developing a network of champions.</p> <p>Complete our Sport England-funded Wellbeing with Nature project and create a sustainable scaling model to increase our reach.</p>	<p>Plans were developed for the celebration of our 60th anniversary in 2022 including a special event for supporters and members and additional fundraising activities. In March, we produced a special '60th birthday edition' of 'Your WildLife' membership magazine.</p> <p>We began identifying 'champions' through our work with community groups and supported 50 champions with advice, signposting and toolkit/guide creation, who in turn engaged on average 20 people each (reaching 1,000). Two spaces were transformed by the champions and their community groups and in that process engaged 200 local residents who will go on to benefit from the spaces as well as wildlife.</p> <p>During the year, 13,723 people took action for wildlife, whether that was writing to their local councillor, making a bird box or hedgehog house, or planting trees.</p> <p>Our Go Wild Get Fit programme was completed in December 2021 with 203 participants benefitting over the three-year project. The scaling plan was revised to ensure that future wellbeing work integrates with the new approach to engagement.</p>	<p>Deliver a 60th birthday public appeal, themed communications and a 60th birthday event for longstanding members and special supporters.</p> <p>Continue to build our champion network to 100, expanding to include new groups such as schools and businesses, and supporting them with additional tools, training and an online platform.</p> <p>Launch a Young Leaders project and plan to grow our work with young people.</p> <p>Complete the Sport England-funded scaling project to develop a sustainable approach to increase people's nature connection and improve wellbeing through nature.</p>
<p>Volunteering:</p> <p>We will seek to renew our Investing in Volunteers quality badge and resume volunteering activity as and when restrictions ease.</p>	<p>Volunteering activities resumed and we gradually moved back to offering a full programme of events. We are increasing our volunteer opportunities as projects grow across the Trust.</p>	<p>We will increase our volunteering opportunities and increase our volunteer audience.</p>
<p>Partnership Working:</p> <p>We will continue to develop our partnership approach and ensure that</p>	<p>During the year we continued to work with local partners such as local authorities, businesses, other charities and community</p>	<p>We're aiming to expand our landowner engagement through the delivery of a Defra Test & Trials</p>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



<p>stakeholders are fully engaged with project development and delivery.</p> <p>We plan to work with 50 landowners and farmers across Cheshire to help them manage their land better for wildlife.</p>	<p>organisations as well as cross-border partners in Wales and with Wildlife Trusts across the country.</p> <p>We worked with approx. 110 landowners and farmers across various projects and schemes to enable them to manage their land better for wildlife. The landowners engaged ranged from smallholders with 1ha up to those with hundreds of hectares of land such as the Grosvenor Estate where we delivered wildflower meadow restoration and hedgerow tree planting.</p>	<p>contract. Through this we will be working with tenant farmers on the Cholmondeley Estate to help influence the forthcoming Environment Land Management Schemes whilst also developing our Land Management Advisory Services in conjunction with the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts.</p>
<p>Communications & Campaigns:</p> <p>Engage at least 150,000 people during the year, including 35,000 through social media.</p> <p>Recruit at least 2,000 new memberships and achieve a 90% retention rate. Stay connected with over 5,000 people every week through the Wild Cheshire e-newsletter.</p> <p>Engage 5,000 people in our Grow Don't Mow, Wasted Space, Great Big Green Week and Peat-free campaigns. We will continue to engage with MPs.</p>	<p>We reached over 29,000 followers through our social media channels, generating over 183,000 engagements with our content.</p> <p>1,844 memberships were recruited, achieving 85% retention rate. By the end of the year, an average of 5,488 people were opening our content each week.</p> <p>5,757 people took part in our various campaigns and we launched our Wasted Space programme in April 2022, with actions and targets now forming part of our FY23 plan.</p>	<p>With an updated social media strategy, paid-for promotion and the addition of a new Digital Marketing Officer focusing on 'people-powered' stories, we will continue to grow our following through existing channels to 36,000, as well as adding new channels, such as TikTok. We will also optimise the content and channels for fundraising and engagement targets.</p> <p>We aim to increase our membership twofold, firstly by launching a digital hub to boost digital membership recruitment and secondly by expanding our face-to-face recruitment team, building upon their success following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Continue to inspire and drive 5,000 people to act through our Wasted Space, Grow Don't Mow, Nature Recovery and HS2 campaigns. We will continue to engage with MPs and influence councils to declare an eco-emergency.</p>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



4. We are effective and resilient: Below is a summary of our programme to ensure that CWT has the financial resources it needs, is well run and has a high-performing and valued staff and volunteer team.

What we planned for FY22	Some of the things we did in FY22	What we have planned for FY23
Financial Sustainability:		
We will continue to carefully manage the ongoing effects of the pandemic.	Our total income increased from £2.3m in FY21 to just under £2.7m in FY22 and we returned an overall surplus of £10,865. This is the sixth successive year in which the Trust has managed its expenditure within budgetary limits. We have continued to grow through the pandemic and have now recovered from the impacts felt in 2020.	Sustainably grow income to over £3m.
We will further grow our income from services and contracts.	Income from earned income grew by a further 43% from £813,212 to £1,165,280. This large increase was in part due to the integration of our subsidiary trading into the primary trading of the charity. During the year new contracts for habitat creation and land management advice were secured.	Continue to grow earned income from primary trading activities.
We will continue to make best use of grant funding to pump prime new projects.	Income from grants grew slightly from £699,846 to £708,579 secured from a range of sources including National Lottery Heritage Fund, People's Postcode Lottery and a number of charitable trusts. Grant funding enabled the continuation of existing engagement activities.	Secure grant funding to expand community organising and campaigning.
We will grow our membership.	Income from membership increased by 11% from £457,936 in FY21 to £509,134 in FY22, demonstrating that supporting environmental causes remained high on the public agenda. The total number of members increased from 15,890 to 16,923. Income from donations and legacies rose slightly to £115,938 and we raised £156,715 through appeals thanks to the generous support given to our Saltersford Farm acquisition campaign.	Sustainably increase membership numbers and subscription income. Additionally, we expect income from donations and legacies to exceed £53,000. During our 60 th year, we hope to raise £200,000 from a public appeal to help buy a new 100-acre plot of land to transform into a wildlife haven.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



<p>We will aim to at least maintain and ideally grow our financial reserves.</p>	<p>The £100k working capital invested in our subsidiary company was returned as part of the company close down and overall total financial reserves now stand at £1,291,898, with the majority assigned to restricted and designated purposes.</p>	<p>Grow unrestricted cash reserves.</p>
<p>Good Governance:</p> <p>We will begin delivering against our new strategy. We will align staffing and resources to our three strategic pillars and map out our approach for achieving the targets over the next decade.</p>	<p>During the year we set out our plans for achieving 30% of land protected and restored by 2030, identifying the need to double woodland cover, triple the extent of wetland and create 10,000ha more grassland. We also set out our approach to achieving 1 in 4 people taking action for nature and began scaling up our engagement and communications. A new post of Wilder Engagement Manager was created to lead this work.</p>	<p>Continue to deliver against our strategic goals.</p>
<p>Recruit at least two further Trustees.</p>	<p>Two new Trustees were elected during the year, replacing two standing down at the end of their tenure.</p>	<p>Maintain a diverse and effective Board.</p>
<p>We will continue to ensure that the charity is governed in line with Charity Commission best practice guidance.</p>	<p>We have continued to govern the charity effectively. The Board has reviewed key policies in line with its schedule and undertaken a root and branch review of roles, job descriptions and salaries across all teams. The Board has met quarterly and continues to be supported by a small number of committees and working groups.</p>	<p>Implement improved benefits and remuneration packages to staff. Continually review Board effectiveness.</p>
<p>Working in the Federation:</p> <p>We will continue to work closely with our partners in the federation of Wildlife Trusts in order to collaborate at scale and share best practice.</p>	<p>The CEO and Chair continued to attend Royal Society of Wildlife Trust events and serve on national committees. Staff from across CWT worked with other Trusts to deliver projects including development of habitat banking with Warwickshire and Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trusts; Wilder Stockport with the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside; fundraising and communications with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust; and the Our Dee Estuary project with North Wales Wildlife Trust.</p>	<p>We will continue to play our full part in the development of the federation to support the implementation of the 'Bringing Nature Back' collective 2030 strategy.</p>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



Financial review

Review of the year

Cheshire Wildlife Trust's financial position improved during the year with overall income standing at £2,688,836 (2021: £2,290,447). The consolidated unrestricted income for the year was £1,973,586 (2021: £1,657,616) and restricted income £715,250 (2021: £632,831).

Expenditure for the period totalled £2,677,971 (2021: £2,239,461).

Principal funding sources

Following last year's transfer of trade and assets from the subsidiary to the parent company, the profile of the funding sources has changed. The largest source of unrestricted income is now from contracts and commercial income although membership subscriptions continue to provide a major part of the Trust's ongoing unrestricted funding. The main sources of funding for the charity were:

Earned income	43.3%
Grants	26.4%
Membership subscriptions (including gift aid)	18.9%
Appeals and sponsorships	5.8%
Donations and legacies	4.3%
Fundraising	1.0%
Other income	0.3%

Generating funds

We receive approximately 30% of our financial support through voluntary income from individuals across a range of fundraising activities. Trust membership is the foundation of everything we do and we endeavour to grow this each year. The overall number of members at 31 March 2022 was 16,923. This is attributable to an increased public interest in environmental concerns combined with an increased CWT profile and use of alternative recruitment methods such as digital conversion and direct mail. Members not only provide vital funding that enables positive work for wildlife but also represent the collective voice of people who care about wildlife. This is critically important in helping the Trust to stand up for wildlife and get our message across to key decision makers.

We also aim to build lasting support from institutional bodies, including our corporate members, statutory grant funders and charitable trusts. Some of our charitable activities also generate income, especially from land management, ecological advice and education services.

In our activities, we receive extensive assistance from our volunteers, who are at the heart of what the Trust does and achieves; without their help our work would be greatly diminished. Volunteers founded the Trust in 1962 and they are still fundamental to our work. They carry out a variety of roles, from practical conservation and field surveys, to support for office and education activities. All the volunteers are doing vital jobs that allow us to maintain our core business.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



Financial reserves	Group
Total Funds	£1,291,898
Less restricted	£ 460,152
Less designated	£ 161,194
Unrestricted Funds	<u>£ 670,552</u>
Unrestricted cash and investments	<u>£347,841</u>

The Council has examined the Trust's requirements for financial reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation in order to:

- ☐ provide sufficient cash liquidity for operational effectiveness of the Trust, and
- ☐ protect the continuity of the work undertaken by the Trust.

The Trust has targeted a level of unrestricted cash and investments of four months' expenditure by the Trust (excluding that on grant funded projects). At March 2022 the Trust had cash reserves which are sufficient to cover 3 months' unrestricted expenditure. The Trust is looking to increase this cover to safeguard both the operational and financial sustainability of the Trust as the organisation grows.

Investment policy

The trade and assets of Cheshire Ecological Services Ltd, which is wholly owned by CWT were transferred to the charity in October 2020, which resulted in the subsidiary becoming dormant. The outstanding loan of £50,000 was repaid in April 2021.

Any surplus cash, over and above the amount required to support one month's working capital requirement, is held in secure instant access accounts at competitive rates.

Risk management

The Chief Executive maintains a strategic risk register which is regularly reviewed by Council with actions to mitigate risks taken as needed.

The current main strategic risks are:

- ☐ the health & wellbeing of the Trust's staff, volunteers and supporters as a result of Covid-19;
- ☐ financial reserves which fall below the four-month target and associated cash flow sensitivities;
- ☐ continued decline of the UK's natural environment combined with insufficient societal and political support for our cause;
- ☐ rising inflation and the impact of the cost of living crisis on operational costs, wages and public spending;

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

□

- □ HS2 phase 2b, which if delivered would see the loss of 92ha of woodland, 495ha of species-rich grassland, 333 ponds, 43 Local Wildlife Sites and 1 CWT nature reserve.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited (CWT) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and as such has no share capital. It was incorporated on 24 October 1962 and registered as a charity on 20 February 1963. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. The Articles of Association were reviewed during 2019/20 with the support of Brabners LLP. The new governing document was approved by the Charity Commission in April 2020 and adopted at the AGM in November 2020.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are members of CWT who, having been nominated and seconded by other members, have been duly elected by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Under the CWT Articles, such elected members are known as Council Members.

Council Members are registered as Directors of the company under company law and are also registered as Charity Trustees with the Charity Commission.

In compliance with the Articles of Association adopted on 14 November 2020, Directors are appointed to the Board for terms of three years. On expiry of such three-year term the Director shall resign unless re-elected by an ordinary resolution of the charity. A Director may not serve on the Board for more than three consecutive terms of three years.

Additional Council Members may be co-opted during the period. They must retire at the next AGM, though may stand for re-election.

The Council aims to have a representative mix of skills from various sectors of the community. The current mix of men and women, living across the area served by the Trust, includes expertise from backgrounds in the public, private and voluntary sectors. In addition to their knowledge and interest in wildlife, Council Members bring to the Trust managerial and organisational skills in policy, strategy, financial and legal matters.

The Articles of Association specifically preclude any payment to Council Members, other than reimbursement of properly incurred travel and incidental expenses. During the period Council Members claimed £nil in expenses (2019/20: £1,442.70).

There are no other financial transactions with any Trustees (or any persons connected with them).

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



Council Members induction and training

All Council Members have undergone an induction programme which included an induction pack, an explanation of our governance arrangements and the opportunity to visit Trust reserves and offices and to have discussions with Trust management, employees and volunteers.

As part of this induction, all Council Members have a Council Members' Handbook containing the reference material to guide the governance of the Trust, including copies of the Trust's Articles of Association, the Charity Commission booklet CC3 'The Essential Trustee', the Companies House 'Incorporation and Names' booklet (GP1), the Companies House 'Hallmarks of an Effective Charity' booklet (CC10) and the Health and Safety Executive booklet 'Leading Health & Safety at Work'. A copy of 'Good Governance: a practical guide for trustees, chairs and CEOs' by Dorothy Dalton on behalf of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations is held by the Chair of Council.

Organisational structure

The Council is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity, and for appointing the Chief Executive, Charlotte Harris (from 1 April 2013), who attends Council meetings but does not have a voting entitlement. The Council holds at least four regular meetings a year, with occasional additional workshops to focus on special topics.

The Council utilises a number of committee and working groups to scrutinise and support specific areas of the Trust's operations in more detail. From January 2020, the following committees support the work of Council: Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources; Governance & Nominations; CES Board; Health & Safety Committee and a Management Support Group. This last group is advisory only and exists to support the Senior Management Team in between formal meetings.

Each committee and working group is chaired by a Council member. Membership of the group includes up to five Trustees and senior staff responsible for each work area. Meetings take place as required and report to Council.

The strategic direction, annual work plans and budget are agreed by Council with operational day-to-day decision making delegated to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team.

Pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive is dealt with by the Chair of Council in consultation with the Board of Trustees. The Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources Committee considers recommendations from the Chief Executive regarding salaries for the Senior Leadership Team, who in turn set pay levels for more junior staff in line with the approved budget and CWT salary scales. Benchmarking data from the Wildlife Trust movement and wider charity sector are used to inform decision making.

Relationship with the charity and related parties including its subsidiaries

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is the sole shareholder in a trading company, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited (CES) (Company No: 2623356), which is a private limited company incorporated on 24 June 1991. On 1 October 2020 the staff, trade and activities of CES were transferred to CWT and the company became dormant in April 2021.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

□

CWT is a member of the Wildlife Trusts Partnership (registered as the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, registered charity number 207238), which acts as an umbrella body carrying out lobbying and public relations on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts. Partners have the use of the Wildlife Trusts logo and benefit from the resources, best practice and specialist experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives the charity a national voice and profile, as well as respectability by association for those unfamiliar with its particular work. However, each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance.

Statement of the Board's responsibilities

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

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

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

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

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

The members of the Board who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. Each of the members of the Board has confirmed that they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as members of the Board in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

The Trustees have reviewed the future financial forecasts of the charity and are satisfied that the charity remains a going concern. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022



Auditors

A resolution to re-appoint Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited as auditor will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective 1 January 2019).

The Report of the Members of the Board, which includes the Strategic Report on pages 6 to 16, was approved by the Board on 19 October 2022 and signed on their behalf:

Bill Stothart
Chair of Council

Date: 19 October 2022

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited and its subsidiary for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Activities, the Group Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Group and the Parent Charitable Company Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- ☐ the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- ☐ The Trustees' Report has 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 Trust, and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

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

- ☐ adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- ☐ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ☐ certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- ☐ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- ☐ the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime

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 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 CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- ☐ the nature of the sector, control environment and Trust performance;
- ☐ the Trust's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- ☐ the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- ☐ any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- ☐ identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- ☐ detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- ☐ the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- ☐ the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the company for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas (i) The recognition of revenue, (ii) the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, and Health and Safety legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Data Protection Regulations.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the recognition of revenue, and the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- ☐ reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- ☐ enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- ☐ performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- ☐ reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- ☐ in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's 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 and its Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, Trustees as a body and the charitable company's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



19/10/2022

Jamielee Johnston (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
44 Peter Street
Manchester
M2 5GP

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2022

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Notes	£	£	2022 £	£	£	2021 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	2	625,072	156,715	781,787	559,351	61,067	620,418
Charitable activities	3	1,344,673	558,535	1,903,208	1,094,197	571,764	1,665,961
Investments	4	3,841		3,841	4,068	-	4,068
TOTAL		1,973,586	715,250	2,688,836	1,657,616	632,831	2,290,447
Expenditure							
Raising funds	5	342,245	38,530	380,775	365,156	-	365,156
Charitable activities	6	1,753,871	543,325	2,297,196	1,357,677	516,628	1,874,305
TOTAL		2,096,116	581,855	2,677,971	1,722,833	516,628	2,239,461
Net income/(expenditure)		(122,530)	133,395	10,865	(65,217)	116,203	50,986
Transfers between funds		208,942	(208,942)	-	(35,249)	35,249	-
Net movement in funds		86,412	(75,547)	10,865	(100,466)	151,452	50,986
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total Funds brought forward		745,334	535,699	1,281,033	845,800	384,247	1,230,047
Total Funds carried forward		831,746	460,152	1,291,898	745,334	535,699	1,281,033

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Consolidated Balance Sheet

Year ended 31 March 2022

		Year ended 31 March 2022		Year ended 31 March 2021	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	12		618,496		117,522
Heritage assets	12		316,046		316,046
Total fixed assets			<u>934,542</u>		<u>433,568</u>
Current assets					
Stocks	15	4,853		7,956	
Debtors	16	798,405		328,592	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,027,831		1,114,881	
Total current assets		<u>1,831,089</u>		<u>1,451,429</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	1,193,733		603,964	
Net current asset			<u>637,356</u>		<u>847,465</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	19		(280,000)		
Total net assets			<u><u>1,291,898</u></u>		<u><u>1,281,033</u></u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	21		831,746		745,334
Restricted income funds	21		460,152		535,699
Total funds			<u><u>1,291,898</u></u>		<u><u>1,281,033</u></u>

The notes on pages 31 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

Bill Stothart

Signed:
Bill Stothart

Date: 19/10/2022

Peter Rushton

Signed:
Peter Rushton

Date: 19/10/2022

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Company Balance Sheet Year ended 31 March 2022

		Year ended 31 March 2022		Year ended 31 March 2021	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	13		618,496		117,522
Heritage assets	13		316,046		316,046
Investments	14		100		100
Total fixed assets			<u>934,642</u>		<u>433,668</u>
Current assets					
Stocks	15	4,853		7,956	
Debtors	16	798,405		454,694	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,027,831</u>		<u>983,072</u>	
Total current assets		<u>1,831,089</u>		<u>1,445,722</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	1,193,833		603,963	
Net current assets			<u>637,256</u>		<u>841,759</u>
Creditors : amounts falling due in more than one year	19		(280,000)		
Total net assets or liabilities			<u>1,291,898</u>		<u>1,275,427</u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			831,746		739,728
Restricted income funds	21		<u>460,152</u>		<u>535,699</u>
Total funds			<u>1,291,898</u>		<u>1,275,427</u>

The notes on pages 31 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

Bill Stothart

Peter Rushton

Signed:
Bill Stothart

Date: 19/10/2022

Signed:
Peter Rushton

Date: 19/10/2022

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Statement of Cash Flow

Year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	26	169,290		269,879	
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		-		-	
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		8,460		4,917	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(544,800)		(30,894)	
Proceeds from the sale of investments		-		-	
Purchase of investments		-		-	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>(536,340)</u>		<u>(25,977)</u>	
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Repayments of borrowing		(220,000)		-	
Net cash inflows from new borrowing		500,000		-	
Receipt of endowment		-		-	
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>280,000</u>		<u>-</u>	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			<u>(87,050)</u>		<u>243,902</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,114,881		870,979
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			<u>1,027,831</u>		<u>1,114,881</u>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

1.1 General information

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is a charity incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. The registered office is Bickley Hall Farm, Bickley, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8EF.

1.2 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (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 (effective 1 January 2019). The figures in the accounts are rounded to the nearest £ and the presentational currency is sterling.

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

1.3 Group Accounts

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line-by-line basis.

No separate SOFA has been presented for the Charity alone as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity has availed itself of Paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 1 of the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Group (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and adapted the Companies Act formats to reflect the special nature of the Charity's activities.

The subsidiary ceased trading in October 2020 and became dormant in April 2021 and as such there is no significant difference between the Group and Company figures.

1.4 Fund Accounting

1.4.1 Unrestricted Funds

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

1.4.2 Restricted Income Funds

These funds are given to the Trust for a particular purpose to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2022

1.4.3 Designated Funds – Projects

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for specific projects. These projects may only be partly funded with the unfunded element set aside from general funds.

1.5 Incoming resources

The Trust was formed in 1962 by volunteers and continues to benefit from their support in both financial and non-financial ways. Examples of financial support include membership income, donations and legacies. These contributions are included in the accounts within voluntary income.

Voluntary income is received by way of donations, gifts, subscriptions and fundraising activities. The income is credited to the SOFA on the earlier of receipt or when the receipt is probable, the value can be ascertained, and the Trust gets the legal right to the income. Tax refunds on gift aid income are, however, accrued as earned.

Legacy income is included in the accounts when the amount due can be quantified with reasonable probability and the timing of the receipt is known.

Grants receivable which are not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. These are recognised as 'Income from donation and legacies'.

Grants receivable that relate to the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. A number of these grants are retrospective and where these are outstanding at the year end for work completed, they are accrued. These are recognised as 'Income from charitable activities'.

All grants receivable are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

1.6 Resources expended

All expenditure, other than that which is capitalised, is included in the SOFA, recognised on an accruals basis as a liability when incurred.

Charitable activities consist of the costs incurred in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Costs of raising funds consists of expenditure associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of fundraising and maintaining memberships.

Support costs relate to expenditure incurred in support of the charitable objects of the charity. These include the provision of premises, personnel, information technology, insurances and audit fees and have been allocated on the basis of direct staff wage costs.

Many of our volunteers provide non-financial support covering a wide range of activities, from acting as Trustees to assisting in conservation activities including surveying, and providing administrative support. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2022

Capital purchases are included in the accounts at cost. Capital purchases of less than £250 are expensed.

1.7 Irrecoverable VAT

The charity is partially exempt. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the appropriate cost categories.

1.8 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As such the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.9 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset, except for land, over its estimated useful life:

Plant and machinery – 25% per annum reducing balance

Fixtures and fittings – 25% per annum reducing balance

Motor vehicles – 25% per annum reducing balance

Computer equipment – 25–33.33% per annum straight line basis

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.

Capitalised expenditure on buildings is depreciated over the remainder of the lease period.

1.10 Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are nature reserves, capitalised at the date of addition. Any assets donated, where the cost is unknown, are capitalised at the date of addition. Further details are disclosed within note 12 to the accounts.

1.11 Stocks and work in progress

General stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, where cost comprises purchase price.

Work in progress is valued at cost.

1.12 Deferred income

Restricted funds received for projects which are substantially incomplete or not commenced at year end are recognised in the year in which they are received and carried forward in the balance of restricted funds. The restricted funds are reduced each year by an amount equal to any expenditure on such projects which have been incurred in the year.

1.13 Pension costs

The charitable group operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are included in the SOFA in the year they are payable.

1.14 Finance and operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred. The Trust has no finance leases.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2022

1.15 Provisions

A provision is recognised when the Trust has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

1.16 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax on charitable activities.

1.17 Material uncertainties/judgements

There were no material uncertainties or judgements contained within the presented figures.

1.18 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.19 Government grants

During the year the charity benefited from £1,561 of government grants in the form of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. In accordance with our accounting policy this credit is included in other income within the Income Statement over the same period as the staff costs for which it compensates.

1.20 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Accounting Policies

Year ended 31 March 2022

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2022

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
			2022			2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	115,938		115,938	100,415	10,402	110,817
Grants				1,000	12,000	13,000
Subscriptions	509,134		509,134	457,936	-	457,936
Appeal income		156,715	156,715	-	38,665	38,665
	<u>625,072</u>	<u>156,715</u>	<u>781,787</u>	<u>559,351</u>	<u>61,067</u>	<u>620,418</u>

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
			2022			2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	25,550		25,550	6,883	442	7,325
Grants	150,044	558,535	708,579	180,025	519,821	699,846
Earned income	1,165,280		1,165,280	813,212	50,125	863,337
Other sales	3,799		3,799	41,665	363	42,028
Rental income				52,412	1,013	53,425
	<u>1,344,673</u>	<u>558,535</u>	<u>1,903,208</u>	<u>1,094,197</u>	<u>571,764</u>	<u>1,665,961</u>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest received	3,841	-	3,841	4,068	-	4,068
	<u>3,841</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,841</u>	<u>4,068</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,068</u>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total 2022	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	8,214	155,134	163,349	-	208,783	208,783
Membership costs		54,792	54,792	99	47,753	47,852
Other direct costs	750	103,712	104,462	429	20,893	21,322
Support costs (Note 7)	1,617	56,556	58,172	-	87,199	87,199
	<u>10,581</u>	<u>370,194</u>	<u>380,775</u>	<u>528</u>	<u>364,628</u>	<u>365,156</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2022	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	680,901	397,014	1,077,915	609,541	108,187	717,728
Reserves costs	567,146	83,388	650,554	602,145	32,100	634,244
Motor & travel	30,242	11,572	41,814	25,158	6,228	31,386
Professional fees	6,543	2,371	8,914	14,757	-	14,757
Sundries	70,487	26,983	97,450	133,041	3,731	136,773
Depreciation	31,191	5,486	36,677	36,632	3,023	39,655
Support costs (Note 7)	278,176	105,696	383,872	254,577	45,185	299,762
	<u>1,664,686</u>	<u>632,510</u>	<u>2,297,196</u>	<u>1,675,851</u>	<u>198,454</u>	<u>1,874,305</u>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

7 Support costs

	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£
Training	702	270
Insurance	28,609	24,990
Light & heat	4,767	1,566
Repairs & maintenance	7,508	7,339
Legal & professional	14,081	9,985
Staff & volunteer expenses	5,459	8,718
Motor expenses	1,860	153
Telecoms	9,456	5,759
Post & stationery	3,541	2,635
Sundry expenses	5,348	6,110
RSWT contribution	27,230	29,447
Bank charges	3,227	1,960
Depreciation	5,139	4,470
Admin salaries	164,329	185,886
Office costs	6,369	4,325
Comms & PR		36
Accountancy	28,703	
Audit fees	11,615	7,720
Computer expenses	27,402	27,735
Premises costs	58,171	46,023
Recruitment	1,299	299
Irrecoverable VAT	7,049	1,161
Doubtful debts	20,181	10,374
	<u>442,045</u>	<u>386,961</u>

Allocation of support costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Raising funds	58,173	132,672
Charitable activities	383,872	254,289
	<u>442,045</u>	<u>386,961</u>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2022

8 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is after charging/(crediting):

	Note	2022		2021	
		Group	Company	Group	Company
		£	£	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	9	11,615	11,615	11,520	7,720
Operating lease payments		1,812	1,812	5,992	5,992
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		(7,010)	(7,010)		
Depreciation	12	42,376	42,376	48,807	46,429

9 Staff costs

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Wages & salaries	1,234,939	1,234,939	1,030,875	967,282
Social security costs	103,055	103,055	87,536	81,791
Pension costs	67,600	67,600	67,953	63,326
	1,405,594	1,405,594	1,186,364	1,112,399

The average number of full time equivalent employees, analysed by function was:

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
Charitable activities	30	30	21	21
Generating Funds	9	9	17	14
Management & Administration	5	5	5	5
	44	44	43	40

No employees had earnings over £60,000 during the year.

10 Pension costs

The Trust operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Trust in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the group to the fund and amounted to £67,600 (2021: £67,953).

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2022

11 Related party transactions

Cheshire Ecological Services Ltd (CES) repaid an outstanding loan due to the Trust (CWT) of £50,000 in April 2021.

At the balance sheet date no amounts were outstanding.

No Trustee or any person connected with them received any remuneration from the group during the year (2021: £nil)

During the year Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses of £nil (2021: £1,433).

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2022

12 Tangible assets

Group	Heritage assets	Land & buildings	Plant & machinery	Fixtures & fittings	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	SFP entitlement	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or donated value								
01 April 2021	316,046	113,385	130,391	32,017	76,649	58,645	10,258	737,391
Additions	-	467,994	2,176	7,377	47,250	20,003	-	544,800
Disposals	-	-			(9,286)			(9,286)
At 31 March 2022	<u>316,046</u>	<u>581,379</u>	<u>132,567</u>	<u>39,394</u>	<u>114,613</u>	<u>78,648</u>	<u>10,258</u>	<u>1,272,905</u>
Depreciation								
01 April 2021	-	113,025	66,834	25,984	46,044	41,678	10,258	303,823
Charge for the year	-	659	16,948	3,122	12,736	8,911	-	42,376
Disposals	-	-	-		(7,836)		-	(7,836)
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>113,684</u>	<u>83,782</u>	<u>29,106</u>	<u>50,944</u>	<u>50,589</u>	<u>10,258</u>	<u>338,363</u>
Net book value								
At 31 March 2022	<u>316,046</u>	<u>467,695</u>	<u>48,785</u>	<u>10,288</u>	<u>63,669</u>	<u>28,059</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>934,542</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>316,046</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>63,557</u>	<u>6,033</u>	<u>30,605</u>	<u>16,967</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>433,568</u>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2022

13 Tangible assets

Company	Heritage assets	Land & buildings	Plant & machinery	Fixtures & fittings	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	SFP entitlement	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or donated value								
01 April 2021	316,046	113,385	122,503	29,276	68,380	56,679	10,258	716,527
Additions	-	467,994	2,176	7,377	47,250	20,003		544,800
Disposals					(9,286)			(9,286)
At 31 March 2022	<u>316,046</u>	<u>581,379</u>	<u>124,679</u>	<u>36,653</u>	<u>106,344</u>	<u>76,682</u>	<u>10,258</u>	<u>1,252,041</u>
Depreciation								
01 April 2021	-	113,025	60,232	24,173	34,209	41,062	10,258	282,959
Charge for the year	-	659	16,948	3,122	12,736	8,911		42,376
Disposals					(7,836)			(7,836)
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>113,684</u>	<u>77,180</u>	<u>27,295</u>	<u>39,109</u>	<u>49,973</u>	<u>10,258</u>	<u>317,499</u>
Net book value								
At 31 March 2022	<u>316,046</u>	<u>467,695</u>	<u>47,499</u>	<u>9,358</u>	<u>67,235</u>	<u>26,709</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>934,542</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>316,046</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>62,271</u>	<u>5,103</u>	<u>34,171</u>	<u>15,617</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>433,568</u>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

Heritage assets

The focus of the Trust is the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats and biodiversity within Cheshire. As such the Trust owns and maintains a number of nature reserves that fall within the definition of heritage assets in accordance with FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that, owing to the intrinsic nature of the Trust's reserves, conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient reliability and that, even if valuations could be obtained, the costs would be onerous compared with the additional benefits derived by the Trust and the users of the accounts. As a result, these assets have been capitalised at cost, and, being land, have not been depreciated.

Nature reserves acquired by gift are not capitalised unless a reliable enough reference value of the deemed cost of the asset is available without undue expense to the Trust.

The costs of maintaining heritage assets are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred as part of the Trust's charitable activities.

Five-year summary of heritage asset transactions

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£	£	£	£
Additions	-	-	66,230	-	-
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,230</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Capital commitments

At 31 March 2022, the Trust had a capital commitment of £nil for the purchase of land (2021: £nil).

14 Investments

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited owns the entire share capital (1 ordinary share of £100) in its subsidiary, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited, which is incorporated in England.

Further details concerning the activities and assets of this company are given in note 22.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

15 Stocks

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Stock	4,853	4,853	7,956	7,956
	<u>4,853</u>	<u>4,853</u>	<u>7,956</u>	<u>7,956</u>

16 Debtors

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	451,785	451,785	236,574	226,116
Prepayments and accrued income	342,478	342,478	7,218	7,218
Amounts due from subsidiary companies			-	136,561
Other debtors	4,142	4,142	84,800	84,799
	<u>798,405</u>	<u>798,405</u>	<u>328,592</u>	<u>454,694</u>

Trade debtors is stated net of a provision of £39,197 (2021: £33,926).

17 Taxation

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

18 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	137,719	137,719	110,873	110,873
Deferred income	863,946	863,946	332,837	332,837
Taxation & social security	132,297	132,297	50,600	50,600
Accruals	57,953	57,953	34,656	34,656
Other creditors	1,818	1,918	74,998	74,997
	<u>1,193,733</u>	<u>1,193,833</u>	<u>603,964</u>	<u>603,963</u>

19 Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year

	2022	
	Group	Company
	£	£
Loans	280,000	280,000
	<u>280,000</u>	<u>280,000</u>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

20 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2022, the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Land & buildings				
Within one year	67,556	67,556	46,556	46,556
Two to five years	135,112	135,112	-	-
Greater than five years	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>202,668</u>	<u>202,668</u>	<u>46,556</u>	<u>46,556</u>
Other				
Within one year	1,812	1,812	2,987	2,987
Two to five years	6,021	6,021	4,371	4,371
Greater than five years	-	-	585	585
Total	<u>7,833</u>	<u>7,833</u>	<u>7,943</u>	<u>7,943</u>

21 Specified projects

Restricted funds represent monies (including donations and grants) which have been received for specific purposes as outlined by the donor. The Trust has a number of such funds and for the purposes of statutory reporting these have been grouped together under the four headings below.

Transfers out of restricted funds are made where a project is completed and no funding is required to be returned to the funder. Transfers into funds are made when a project is completed and the shortfall in funding is made up from the Trust's general funds.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

Restricted income funds	As at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 March 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 March 2022 £
Reserves acquisition funds	161,193				161,193	-	-	(161,193)	
Capital grants	16,681		200		16,481	140,094	10,669	(449)	145,457
Community engagement funds	60,082	119,651	77,455	35,249	137,527	246,649	212,543	(36,507)	138,126
Conservation & reserves	146,291	492,329	418,122		220,498	328,507	358,643	(10,793)	179,569
	<u>384,247</u>	<u>611,980</u>	<u>495,777</u>	<u>35,249</u>	<u>535,699</u>	<u>715,250</u>	<u>581,855</u>	<u>(208,942)</u>	<u>460,152</u>

The reserves acquisition funds have been transferred to a designated unrestricted fund by the Trustees to fund future land purchases for habitat creation projects.

Capital grants represents grants received to fund capital purchases including land for habitat creation.

Community engagement funds and conservation and reserves funds represent grants received to carry out the Trust's charitable activities.

Funding has been granted by a variety of organisations including:

- ☐ William Dean Trust
- ☐ Scottish Power
- ☐ Sport England
- ☐ People's Postcode Lottery
- ☐ National Lottery Heritage Fund
- ☐ DEFRA

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

Major projects	As at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
William Dean Trust	-	12,564	12,564	-	-	15,000		-	15,000
Other nature reserves	23,863	99,230	104,043	-	19,050	28,520	15,205	-	32,365
Water Environment	9,990	151,347	106,979	-	54,358	69,664	67,498		56,524
Business Transition	12,788	30,000	-	-	42,788	7,500	7,500	-	42,788
Living Seas/ Dee Coastliners	23,071	51,378	50,712		23,737	122,904	94,050	-	52,591
Slowing the Flow	28	53,165	51,770		1,423	42,969	42,969	-	1,423
NFM	3,971	51,382	28,840	-	26,513		15,043		11,470
Pollution Fund	73,776			-	73,776	0	0		73,776
Trees for Climate						101,129	78,366		22,763

Unrestricted funds	As at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	833,353	1,657,616	1,722,833	(35,249)	732,887	1,973,586	2,096,116	60,195	670,552
Designated fund	12,447	-		-	12,447			148,717	161,194
	845,800	1,657,616	1,722,833	(35,249)	745,334	1,973,586	2,096,116	208,942	831,746

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

22 Trading company Cheshire Ecological Services Limited

Profit and Loss Account Year ended 31 March 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover	(2,376)	233,305
Cost of sales		(77,575)
Gross profit	(2,376)	155,730
Administrative expenses	(3,380)	(68,764)
Other income	149	192
Trading profit	(5,607)	87,158
Charitable donation		(89,036)
Operating (loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation	(5,607)	(1,878)
Tax on profit on ordinary activities		
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	(5,607)	(1,878)
Reserves brought forward	5,707	7,585
	<u>100</u>	<u>5,707</u>
	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets	-	-
Current assets	100	142,267
Creditors		(136,560)
Net current assets/(liabilities)	<u>100</u>	<u>5,707</u>

The Charity owns 100% of the shares in Cheshire Ecological Services limited which is incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England (Company Registration No: 2623356). The subsidiary's activities, namely the provision of ecological and biological surveys, was transferred to the charity in October 2020 and became dormant in April 2021.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

23 Analysis of net assets between funds (Company)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	591,138	27,358	618,496
Heritage assets	316,046		316,046
Stocks and work in progress	4,853		4,853
Investments	100		100
Debtors	443,420	354,985	798,405
Cash at bank and in hand	347,841	679,990	1,027,831
Liabilities	(871,652)	(602,181)	(1,473,833)
Total net assets	<u>831,746</u>	<u>460,152</u>	<u>1,291,898</u>

24 Share capital

The Charity has no share capital being a company limited by guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £2 per member in the event of a winding up situation.

25 Control

The Charity is controlled by the Trustees.

26 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	10,865	50,986
Depreciation	42,376	48,807
(Gains)/losses on investments		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	(7,010)	(1,681)
(Increase)/decrease in stock	3,103	(1,773)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(469,813)	(1,097)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	589,769	174,637
Net cash inflow from operating activity	<u>169,290</u>	<u>269,879</u>

	As at 1 April 2020 £	Movement in year £	As at 31 March 2021 £	Movement in year £	As at 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	870,979	243,902	1,114,881	(87,050)	1,027,831