

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

**THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION

<b>Trustees</b>	R Collins S Judd C Neame J Richards J Roscoe P Rushton (retired Nov 2023) B Stothart (Chair) C Swarbrick S Williams
<b>Secretary</b>	Charlotte Harris
<b>Chief Executive</b>	Charlotte Harris
<b>Registered office</b>	Bickley Hall Farm Bickley Malpas Cheshire SY14 8EF
<b>Charity number</b>	214927
<b>Company number</b>	738693
<b>Auditors</b>	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor 44 Peter Street Manchester M2 5GP
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
<b>Solicitors</b>	Gough-Thomas & Scott 8 Willow Street Ellesmere Shropshire SY12 0AQ

**THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

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## THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

### CHAIR'S REPORT

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

I am pleased to be prefacing this report, covering another excellent year for the Trust. The bare financial numbers show our turnover increasing from £3.21m in 2022/23 to £3.54m in 2023/24 and a surplus for the eighth successive year. So, you can see the Trust continues in good financial health. But more importantly, that growth represents an increase in the **impact** of the work we do.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust works for people, wildlife and nature in Cheshire, Wirral, Stockport, Trafford, Tameside, Warrington and Halton. I use a strapline on my emails: *"We need more space for wildlife, and more people on nature's side."* I encourage you to read the many examples in this report which show that **impact**; making more space for nature and wildlife, and engaging/energising more people to act for its recovery.

We had an outstanding opportunity to purchase land for nature following our Anniversary appeal and after an earlier target purchase fell through. The purchase of 30 acres at Greenbooth Nature Reserve is a significant milestone in fulfilling the Anniversary appeal objectives and was a step towards acquiring more, bigger, better and more joined up reserves to provide space for nature's recovery. I look forward to seeing the development of Greenbooth Nature Reserve for natural regeneration and I hope we can report further ambitious plans in the near future.

We continue to face a biodiversity crisis and a climate crisis. Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and Wildlife Trusts nationally, have a critical role in enabling people to play an active part in combatting these challenges and bring about nature's recovery. Thank you for your continued support; it is valued and essential.



Bill Stothart

Chair

Date: 01 October 2024



# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

## 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 17,500 members and over 300 volunteers, is governed by a ten-strong Board of Trustees and currently employs 70 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/2030strategy\\_with\\_a\\_summary](https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/2030strategy_with_a_summary) on the following page.

## Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duties 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.

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### Our vision is for a Wilder Cheshire

**Our mission** is to bring wildlife back – for everyone, everywhere.

#### Our strategy tackles three crises:

##### 1. Wildlife crisis – Let's fight for wildlife's recovery.

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 and less than 10% of our region is protected for wildlife.

*Outcome: At least 30% of the land and sea in Cheshire 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.*

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##### 2. Climate crisis – Let's make nature part of the solution.

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 peatlands, woodland and wetlands, if restored, can protect us. These habitats store carbon, cool our towns and help control flooding as well as supporting our economy and wellbeing. 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.

*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.*

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##### 3. Nature connection deficit – Let's have more people on nature's side.

Our disconnect with nature is snowballing with each passing generation. New generations grow up ever more distant from the natural world. 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. We need at least 1 in 4 people to be taking visible and meaningful action for nature in order to achieve a social tipping point. We need caring for and protecting nature to be a normal part of everyday life and the decisions we take. Only then will we start to see nature recover.

*Outcome: Our wellbeing and economy rely 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.*

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

### 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 three strategic outcomes and we also report on a fourth underpinning objective to ensure that Cheshire Wildlife Trust is effective and resilient.

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#### Wildlife and climate are in crisis

In the year ended 31 March 2024, a further 485ha of land was protected for nature as a result of our work, over 100 land managers received advice to enhance the management of 2,300ha for wildlife, we directly managed 743ha and we created 80ha of new habitat.

#### Outcome: 30% of land in Cheshire is good for nature

We completed the purchase of Greenbooth Nature Reserve, on the edge of the Peak District, backed by donations from supporters and the Bannister Charitable Trust.

Forty-two hectares of new woodland was planted using Defra Trees for Climate funding, including 7ha of new woodland and scrub at Saltersford Nature Reserve and the completion of an 11,000 tree agroforestry scheme – the first of its kind in Cheshire.

We installed 20 more ponds for great crested newts, mitigating for losses due to development.

Thirty-seven hectares of wildflower meadow was created and restored to provide a welcome boost for pollinators, and significant grant funding secured to grow our Pollinating Cheshire project into 2024/25 and beyond.

Our land management advice services continued to expand, with a further 1,500ha of land now being farmed with nature in mind as a result of our input.

#### Outcome: 30% of land for nature is well managed

Nature reserve management plans were reviewed to ensure our wildlife refuges are maintained in good condition into the future.

Gowy Meadows was further enhanced through a programme of works including wetland habitat creation, a pony grazing trial and ongoing mink control.

## **THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

#### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

A new boardwalk at Danes Moss has been installed, allowing safer access across the reserve.

The Our Dee Estuary team continued working with the Royal Liverpool Golf Club on a plan for the management of Red Rocks Marsh. Work carried out included removal of invasive species and scrub on the sand dunes and reprofiling of natterjack toad breeding ponds.

Crown Farm Quarry has continued to improve through a second year of conservation grazing with ten Aberdeen Angus cattle. We have carried out woodland management works and constructed a new cattle corral on site.

#### **Outcome: Declining species are recovering**

The launch of the RiverThrive project has seen the creation and restoration of approximately 30ha of wetland habitat along the River Gowy to benefit water vole and European eel, including the creation of 32 ponds, one scrape, 1.8km of new buffer strips and 1.9km of new ditches.

The South West Peak Curlew Recovery Partnership continues to engage citizen scientists to monitor wader nests across the Peak District, with new farm wader plans created with the landowners. New scrapes have been created and are already attracting breeding waders.

Our beavers at the Hatch Mere enclosure continued to attract interest across Cheshire with over 500 people attending guided visits.

Twenty swift boxes were built with Stockport College. Forty-nine people signed up to have a free swift box installed on their house, adding to the 34 already in the area.

#### **Outcome: 30% of land is protected for nature**

We produced influential reports including peatland restoration feasibility analyses for Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester Councils, a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Needs and Supply assessment for Wirral Council, and responses to Forestry Commission schemes affecting Local Wildlife Sites and deep peat at Capesthorpe and Tabley.

Our HS2 No Net Loss report, which showed the true impact of the scheme to nature, resulted in 104,000 petition signatories which we delivered to Downing Street, Defra and the Department for Transport in July. Our report continues to influence the outcomes on HS2 Phase 1 and other infrastructure projects nationally.

We've influenced BNG metric development by representing Wildlife & Countryside Link and The Wildlife Trusts in meetings with Defra. We've input into development of BNG metric software and co-lead BNG training sessions for the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

We led on grassland species modelling for Natural England to help inform where best to target restoration and secured the contract to complete the ecological network mapping for the Cheshire region Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). We are a member of the Liverpool City Region LNRS Technical Advisory Board, and we've produced a technical assessment report for the Greater Manchester LNRS.

## THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Our responses to planning applications have influenced outcomes on 541ha of land, most notably refusal of plans for housing at Longridge Local Wildlife Site (although the need to defend this site will continue through the appeals process). We've attended Wirral Local Plan hearings, giving evidence to help protect nature. We've completed Neighbourhood Planning reports for five communities and delivered two community talks including to the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

#### **Our plans for April 2024–March 2025:**

- Continue to input meaningfully into the Local Nature Recovery Strategies for Cheshire, Liverpool and Manchester.
- Transform 100 spaces for wildlife.
- Directly improve the management of 1,000ha for wildlife.
- Influence the management of 1,500ha through advice, support and other enabling activities.
- Ensure our nature reserves remain well managed and provide refuge to declining species.
- Influence local plans and policies to ensure they deliver the best outcomes for nature.
- Help reverse the declines of our most threatened wildlife including eels, water voles, reptiles, swifts and natterjack toads.

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#### **We are in crisis**

In the year ended 31 March 2024, our communications and engagement programmes reached 347,440 people and inspired over 30,500 actions for nature.

#### **Outcome: People in Cheshire are more connected to nature**

We engaged nearly 5,000 children and families through sessions on school grounds, on nature reserves and in the community. Family Friendly Forest School, Nature Tots and curriculum aligned sessions for schools fostered greater connection with nature by providing immersive interactions with wildlife, such as dissecting owl pellets after Wildlife Friendly Farming walks and mud-dipping at Thurstaston Beach.

We engaged 104 people via our Wild Work Days and volunteer days in the nursery at Bickley Hall Farm. We delivered eight teacher training sessions, improving the skills of 55 practitioners in outdoor learning. We piloted new approaches to increase nature connection, delivering 'Nature Breaks' for businesses and Nature Connection training for Early Years teachers and care workers for adults with SEND. This training enabled them to deliver Nature Tots style wellbeing sessions in their settings.

#### **Outcome: More people are aware of the nature and climate crisis and what they can do to help**

Our social media following grew to just over 37,500, and 291,000 users visited our website. Our online engagement rate continued to increase to above the average for the charity sector, meaning we reached more people than ever before to connect with, care about and take action for local wildlife.

Our Wild Cheshire e-newsletter was opened and read by 8,500 people every Wednesday with over 400 every week responding to our calls to action, and 552 people mapped their actions for nature.

## **THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

#### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

We engaged over 7,000 people at events, targeting those that would increase our Wilder Champion network. We inspired 552 on-the-ground actions for nature, such as creation of pollinator patches and Grow Don't Mow commitments, with a further 136 pledges for nature captured. A total of 1,454 children received school assemblies and 94 took further action for nature with CWT, and over 200 teachers received the Wilder Schools newsletter each term.

#### **Outcome: Everyone has access to urban wild space**

Our Wilder Communities team have continued to make wild spaces more accessible, delivering on-the-ground support to 58 groups across Crewe, Stockport and the rest of Cheshire, resulting in 13 spaces being transformed for the benefit of nature and the community, including planting 250 trees with volunteers for Disley Parish Council. We carried out community listening workshops across Crewe, Stockport and Partington to identify barriers and opportunities related to people accessing urban wild spaces.

We made 14 school grounds better for nature and learning, planting five orchards, creating four ponds and sowing wildflower meadows. We supported six schools in Warrington to join the National Education Nature Park by mapping hidden nature on their grounds.

#### **Outcome: A network of champions & warriors are empowered to take action for nature**

A total of 17,497 individuals took action for nature through their continued membership support of Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

Through digital promotion and events, we grew our network of champions from 200 to over 500 individuals who are in turn leading others to take action for nature. We supported communities and schools to transform more than 65 spaces to be better for wildlife.

To support the development of the champion network, we provided an online forum, webinars and our first in-person networking events. Our growing library of online toolkits and guides was accessed by more than 1,500 people.

To broaden our reach to include nurseries, colleges and other education settings, our 'Wilder Schools' network was rebranded to become the Wilder Education network. Membership almost doubled to 77 organisations.

Our Young Leaders group were supported to onboard two new co-chairs. They continued to attend events to promote engagement with the National Park City vision in Chester.

Our campaigns influenced decision makers to make the right choices for nature. Almost 10,900 people signed our campaigns or wrote to their MP. We challenged a plan to build nearly 1,000 houses on Danes Moss North Local Wildlife Site and over 7,000 Cheshire East residents signed our petition. A total of 3,490 people locally called upon the Government to stop and rethink HS2.

#### **Our plans for April 2024–March 2025:**

- Reach at least 330,000 people through our communications, events and outreach visits.
- Mobilise and support at least 30,000 people to take action for nature.

## THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

- Support and grow our network of individual, community group, farmer, business and school champions.
- Campaign to get nature on the agenda in the general election.
- Campaign and advocate for better decision making for nature locally.
- Train teachers and support schools to embed nature connection and outdoor learning into school life.

#### **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.

##### **Outcome: CWT is financially sustainable**

Our total income increased by 10% from £3.2m in FY23 to £3.5m in FY24 and we returned an overall surplus of £83,874, a similar position to the previous year. This is the eighth successive year in which the Trust has managed its expenditure within budgetary limits.

Earned income remained similar to the previous year at £1.2m. During the year we continued to secure new contracts for habitat creation, species reintroduction and land management advice.

Income from grants grew by 42% from £1.1m to £1.6m, secured from a range of sources including Natural England, National Lottery Heritage Fund and a number of charitable trusts. Grant funding enabled the continuation of existing engagement activities together with the launch of our RiverThrive project.

Income from subscriptions, legacies and appeals stood at £715k (2023: £827k), down from the year before which included income from the 3x3 appeal which was not repeated in the current year. The total number of members remained stable, demonstrating a continued commitment from our supporters.

##### **Outcome: CWT is well governed**

A successful round of Trustee recruitment generated a substantive response and two new Trustees were co-opted.

We continued to improve benefits for staff including the launch of a Learning & Development Framework.

Policies and procedures relating to health & safety and safeguarding were reviewed.

The Board of Trustees agreed the local adoption of six new frameworks aimed at building consistency and best practice across the Wildlife Trust federation.

A mid-term review of our 2023 strategy began and will be completed by March 2025.

##### **Outcome: CWT is an effective member of the Wildlife Trust federation**

CWT continued to play its full part in the federation. The CEO and Chair took part in national conferences and working groups on a range of strategic topics.

CWT continued to work closely with North Wales Wildlife Trust to deliver the Our Dee Estuary project and with Cumbria and Lancashire Wildlife Trusts to campaign for better protection of the Irish Sea.

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

We provided training and advice to other Wildlife Trusts on biodiversity net gain. We worked closely with Lancashire Wildlife Trust to align input into the Liverpool and Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

We contributed case studies to a national report on climate adaptation and shared our learnings from projects with colleagues across the federation through communities of practice, site visits and staff networks.

#### Our plans for April 2024–March 2025:

- Further grow our resources and ensure that we remain financially sustainable.
- Complete and publish a refresh of our strategy.
- Continue to improve staff terms and conditions so that we can attract and retain the best talent.
- Aim to further diversify our Board of Trustees by recruiting at least two more Trustees.
- Continue to contribute to the progression of the Wildlife Trust federation through working groups and partnerships.
- Further strengthen the Trust's balance sheet through prudent investment in land.
- Ensure that our governance remains effective and fit for purpose.

## Financial review

### Review of the year

Cheshire Wildlife Trust's financial position improved during the year with unrestricted income for the year of £2.4m (2023: £2.1m) and restricted income £1.2m (2023: £1.1m).

Expenditure for the year totalled £3.4m (2023: £3.1m).

### Principal funding sources

Almost half of our income in the year came from grants. The largest source of unrestricted income remains contracts and earned 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:

Grants	45.4%
Contracts and earned income	32.9%
Membership subscriptions (including gift aid)	15.1 %
Appeals and sponsorships	2.7 %
Donations and legacies	2.5 %
Fundraising	1.0 %
Other income	0.4 %



## THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

### TRUSTEES' REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

##### Generating funds

Approximately 21% of our financial support comes from individuals, with trust membership being crucial as the foundation for other fundraising. As of March 31, we had 17,497 members, who provide essential funding and a collective voice for wildlife advocacy. We also seek lasting support from institutional bodies, corporate members, grant funders and charitable trusts. Significant income is generated through land management, ecological advice and education services. Volunteers, integral since our founding in 1962, are central to our operations, contributing to conservation, field surveys, and office and education support, making our work possible.

##### Financial reserves

Total funds	£1,455,727
Less restricted	£374,985
Less designated	£288,418
Unrestricted funds	<u>£792,324</u>
Unrestricted cash and investments	<u>£847,506</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 2024 the Trust had cash reserves (excluding cash earmarked for land purchase) which are sufficient to cover five 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

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

## **THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

#### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

##### **Risk management**

The Chief Executive maintains a strategic risk register which is regularly reviewed by Council. The Trustees and Senior Leadership Team, in conjunction with the Chief Executive, work to both minimise and mitigate strategic risks.

The top three strategic risks in the year ending 31 March 2024 were:

- The effect of rising inflation on costs for the Trust's operations and our staff.
- Continued decline of the UK's natural environment combined with insufficient societal and political support for our cause.
- The impact of changes to policies and regulations protecting the natural environment arising from a potential change in government.

##### **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 is governed by its charitable objects and articles of associations (reviewed 2020).

###### **Recruitment and appointment of Trustees**

The Trustees, elected by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), are known as Council Members and registered as Directors with Companies House and charity trustees with the Charity Commission.

They serve three-year terms, renewable up to three consecutive terms. Co-opted Council Members must retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.

The Council aims for a diverse skill set from various sectors, including public, private and voluntary, with expertise in policy, strategy, finance and legal matters.

Council Members are unpaid, except for travel and incidental expenses, which were not claimed during the period. No financial transactions occurred with Trustees or connected persons during the period.

###### **Council Members induction and training**

All Council Members are inducted so they become familiar with the Trust's governance arrangements, sites, projects and staff.

Council Members receive a handbook containing the reference material, including 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', and 'Good Governance: a practical guide for trustees, chairs and CEOs' by Dorothy Dalton.

## **THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

#### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

##### **Organisational structure**

The Council sets the strategic direction and policy of the charity and appoints the Chief Executive, who attends but does not vote in Council meetings.

The Council meets six times a year and uses committees and working groups for detailed scrutiny and support. Key committees include Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources, Governance & Nominations, and Health & Safety. Each group is chaired by a Council Member and includes up to five Trustees and senior staff.

The Council agrees on strategy, work plans and budget, delegating daily operations to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team.

Remuneration decisions involve the Chair and Trustees, informed by benchmarking data.

##### **Relationship with the charity and related parties including its subsidiary**

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is the sole shareholder in a dormant (since April 2021) company, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited (CES) (Company No: 2623356).

As part of the Wildlife Trusts federation (Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, registered charity number 207238), CWT benefits from centrally led advocacy, campaigning, shared services and fundraising. Members use 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 federation remains entirely independent in terms of governance.

##### **Statement of the Board's responsibilities**

The Trustees 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 and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charitable company 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 CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

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 hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors**

Each Director has confirmed that they have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor. 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.

### **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 7-14, was approved by the Board on 1 October 2024 and signed on their behalf:



Bill Stothart  
**Chair of Council**

01 October 2024

## **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 for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flow, 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 company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2022.

#### **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 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.

## **THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited**

#### **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 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**

- 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 Cheshire Wildlife Trust and its subsidiary, 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 and sufficient accounting records have not been kept by the company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the company's 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.

## **THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited**

#### **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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

#### **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:

## **THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited**

- 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 2022, 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.

#### **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



## THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

- 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
44 Peter Street  
Manchester  
M2 5GP



1 October 2024

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

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

## Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended March 2024

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Notes	£	£	2024 £	£	£	2023 £
<b>Income</b>							
Donations and legacies	2	680,267	35,104	715,371	671,117	156,845	827,962
Charitable activities	3	1,680,859	1,124,453	2,805,312	1,456,987	928,210	2,385,197
Investments	4	18,672		18,672	1,300	-	1,300
TOTAL		2,379,798	1,159,557	3,539,355	2,129,404	1,085,055	3,214,459
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Raising funds	5	308,224	80,461	388,685	302,359	47,956	350,315
Charitable activities	6	1,923,535	1,143,261	3,066,796	2,070,941	713,248	2,784,189
TOTAL		2,231,759	1,223,722	3,455,481	2,373,300	761,204	3,134,504
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		148,039	(64,165)	83,874	(243,896)	323,851	79,955
Transfers between funds		305,688	(305,688)	-	39,165	(39,165)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		453,727	(369,853)	83,874	(204,731)	284,686	79,955
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds brought forward		627,015	744,838	1,371,853	831,746	460,152	1,291,898
Total funds carried forward		1,080,742	374,985	1,455,727	627,015	744,838	1,371,853

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Balance Sheet

Year ended 31 March 2024

		Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	Notes	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	592,144	594,503
Heritage assets	12	316,046	316,046
<b>Total tangible assets</b>		<b>908,190</b>	<b>910,549</b>
Investments	13	100	100
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>908,290</b>	<b>910,649</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock	14	3,415	4,679
Debtors	15	814,781	917,120
Cash at bank and in hand		1,579,048	1,626,629
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>2,397,244</b>	<b>2,548,428</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(1,849,807)	(1,987,224)
<b>Net current asset</b>		<b>547,437</b>	<b>561,204</b>
Liabilities falling due in more than one year	18	-	(100,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>1,455,727</b>	<b>1,371,853</b>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted funds	20	1,080,742	627,015
Restricted income funds	20	374,985	744,838
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>1,455,727</b>	<b>1,371,853</b>

The notes on pages 25 to 41 form part of these financial statements.



Signed:  
Bill Stothart



Signed:  
Jamie Richards

1 October 2024

1 October 2024

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Statement of Cash Flow Year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>					
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<b>24</b>	(7,252)		626,127	
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>					
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		2,800		1,700	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(43,129)		(29,029)	
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>		<u>(40,329)</u>		<u>(27,329)</u>	
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			<u>(47,581)</u>		<u>598,798</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,626,629		1,114,881
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>			<u>1,579,048</u>		<u>1,626,629</u>

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2024

### 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 SORP (FRS 102) – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019). The 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 Fund accounting

##### 1.3.1 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.

##### 1.3.2 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.

##### 1.3.3 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.

#### 1.4 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.

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2024

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.

### 1.5 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, as well as providing administrative support. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

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

### 1.6 Irrecoverable VAT

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

### 1.7 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.

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Notes to the Accounts

### Year ended 31 March 2024

#### **1.8 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 – 33% per annum straight line basis

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.

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

#### **1.9 Heritage assets**

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

#### **1.10 Stock and work in progress**

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

#### **1.11 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.

#### **1.12 Pension costs**

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

#### **1.13 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.

#### **1.14 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.

#### **1.15 Taxation**

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

#### **1.16 Material uncertainties/judgements**

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

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2024

### 1.17 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks.

### 1.18 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.

#### Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

#### 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 2024

#### 2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
			2024			2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	87,848	310	88,158	113,796	-	113,796
Subscriptions	532,854		532,854	509,290	-	509,290
Appeal income	59,565	34,794	94,359	48,031	156,845	204,876
	<b>680,267</b>	<b>35,104</b>	<b>715,371</b>	<b>671,117</b>	<b>156,845</b>	<b>827,962</b>

#### 3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
			2024			2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	35,361	40	35,401	50,010	-	50,010
Grants	481,209	1,124,413	1,605,622	215,064	912,419	1,127,483
Earned income	1,164,289	-	1,164,289	1,181,629	13,597	1,195,226
Other sales				10,284	2,194	12,478
	<b>1,680,859</b>	<b>1,124,453</b>	<b>2,805,312</b>	<b>1,456,987</b>	<b>928,210</b>	<b>2,385,197</b>

## THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

### Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2024

#### 4 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest received	18,672	-	18,672	1,300	-	1,300
	<b>18,672</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,672</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,300</b>

#### 5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	7,642	216,191	223,833	8,799	176,520	185,319
Membership costs	-	55,094	55,094	-	49,763	49,763
Other direct costs	187	39,626	39,813	302	50,459	50,761
Support costs (Note 7)	2,388	67,557	69,945	3,061	61,411	64,472
	<b>10,217</b>	<b>378,486</b>	<b>388,685</b>	<b>12,162</b>	<b>338,153</b>	<b>350,315</b>

## THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

### Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2024

#### 6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2024	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	835,308	562,976	1,398,284	851,129	492,542	1,343,671
Reserves costs	935,189	54,636	989,825	668,847	103,087	771,934
Motor & travel	27,684	16,534	44,218	41,473	25,361	66,834
Professional fees	13,248	2,293	15,541	8,144	-	8,144
Sundries	126,789	26,975	153,764	43,719	39,928	83,647
Depreciation	26,569	9,651	36,220	35,506	6,988	42,494
Support costs (Note 7)	256,243	172,701	428,944	296,109	171,356	467,465
	<b>2,221,030</b>	<b>845,766</b>	<b>3,066,796</b>	<b>1,944,927</b>	<b>839,262</b>	<b>2,784,189</b>

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2024

### 7 Support costs

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Training	11,666	12,872
Insurance	30,716	33,542
Light & heat	9,955	8,051
Repairs & maintenance	16,131	4,056
Legal & professional	25,444	17,804
Staff & volunteer expenses	4,419	24,615
Motor expenses	718	1,602
Telecoms	7,101	9,025
Post & stationery	2,903	4,673
Sundry expenses	7,824	5,741
RSWT contribution	24,160	25,920
Bank charges	1,910	2,639
Depreciation	6,615	8,565
Admin salaries	246,104	240,092
Audit fees	8,100	7,700
Computer expenses	27,359	31,405
Premises costs	63,140	103,836
Recruitment	500	1,390
Irrecoverable VAT	14,124	9,528
Doubtful debts	(10,000)	(21,119)
	<b>498,889</b>	<b>531,937</b>

### Allocation of support costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Raising funds	69,945	64,472
Charitable activities	428,944	467,465
	<b>498,889</b>	<b>531,937</b>

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2024

### 8 Net movement in funds

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

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Auditor's remuneration		8,100	7,700
Operating lease payments		1,812	1,812
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		(904)	(658)
Depreciation	12	43,592	51,966

### 9 Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages & salaries	1,553,970	1,542,442
Social security costs	133,040	130,754
Pension costs	181,211	79,957
	<b>1,868,221</b>	<b>1,753,153</b>

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

	2024	2023
Charitable activities	39	38
Generating funds	10	9
Management & administration	6	6
	<b>55</b>	<b>53</b>

One employee received total employment benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2023: one employee between £60,000 and £70,000)

Total remuneration (excluding employer pension costs) paid to key personnel during the year totalled £194,200 (2023: £196,500).

## **THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

### **Notes to the Accounts** **Year ended 31 March 2024** **10 Pension costs**

The trust operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the trust in the independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £181,211 (2023: £79,957).

### **11 Related party transactions**

No Trustee or any person connected with the trust received any remuneration from the trust during the year (2023: £nil).

During the year Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses of £nil (2023: £nil).

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2024

### 12 Tangible assets

	Heritage assets £	Land & buildings £	Plant & machinery £	Fixtures & fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	SFP entitlement £	Total £
<b>Cost or donated value</b>								
01 April 2023	316,046	581,379	126,142	40,803	115,749	84,398	10,258	1,274,775
Additions	-	-	18,810	1,750	7,500	15,069	-	43,129
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(8,695)	-	-	(8,695)
At 31 March 2024	<u>316,046</u>	<u>581,379</u>	<u>144,952</u>	<u>42,553</u>	<u>114,554</u>	<u>99,467</u>	<u>10,258</u>	<u>1,309,209</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>								
01 April 2023	-	113,684	89,420	30,672	53,031	67,161	10,258	364,226
Charge for the year	-	-	10,236	2,533	16,483	14,340	-	43,592
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(6,799)	-	-	(6,799)
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>113,684</u>	<u>99,656</u>	<u>33,205</u>	<u>62,715</u>	<u>81,501</u>	<u>10,258</u>	<u>401,019</u>
<b>Net book value</b>								
At 31 March 2024	<u>316,046</u>	<u>467,695</u>	<u>45,296</u>	<u>9,348</u>	<u>51,839</u>	<u>17,966</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>908,190</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>316,046</u>	<u>467,695</u>	<u>36,722</u>	<u>10,131</u>	<u>62,718</u>	<u>17,237</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>910,549</u>

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2024

### 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

	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£	£	£	£
Additions	-	-	-	-	66,230
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,230</u>

### Capital commitments

At 31 March 2024, the Trust had a capital commitment of £209,445 for the purchase of land (2023: £nil).

## 13 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 and Wales.

The subsidiary was dormant for the full financial year and as such the financial statements presented for the Trust have not been consolidated as they are immaterial to the understanding of the results of the Trust.

The net assets of Cheshire Ecological Services Ltd are £100.



# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2024

### 14 Stock

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stock	3,415	4,679
	<u>3,415</u>	<u>4,679</u>

### 15 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	267,108	545,748
Prepayments and accrued income	338,228	371,372
Other debtors	209,445	-
	<u>814,781</u>	<u>917,120</u>

Trade debtors is stated net of a provision of £8,078 (2023: £18,078)

### 16 Taxation

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

### 17 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	284,473	161,626
Deferred income	1,224,246	1,171,053
Taxation & social security	87,273	231,253
Accruals	253,815	234,880
Loan	-	185,268
Other creditors	-	3,144
	<u>1,849,807</u>	<u>1,987,224</u>

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2024

### 18 Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Loans	-	100,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>100,000</u>

### 19 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2024, the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Land &amp; buildings</b>		
Within one year	67,556	67,556
Two to five years	-	67,556
Greater than five years	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>67,556</u>	<u>135,112</u>
<b>Other</b>		
Within one year	1,812	1,812
Two to five years	2,397	4,209
Greater than five years	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>4,209</u>	<u>6,021</u>

### 20 Analysis of restricted funds

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 2024

	As at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted income funds</b>									
Capital grants	145,457	7,775	(3,957)	(15,823)	133,452		(6,787)	(133,578)	(6,913)
Community engagement funds	135,126	400,001	(345,245)	(19,744)	170,352	286,552	(184,482)	(44,886)	227,382
Conservation & reserves	179,569	677,279	(412,002)	(3,598)	441,036	873,005	(1,032,453)	(127,224)	154,517
	<u>460,152</u>	<u>1,085,055</u>	<u>(761,204)</u>	<u>(39,165)</u>	<u>744,838</u>	<u>1,159,557</u>	<u>(1,223,722)</u>	<u>(305,688)</u>	<u>374,986</u>

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

Community engagement funds and conservation & 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
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Defra
- Severn Trent Water
- Ecological Restoration Fund
- Rewilding Britain
- Biffa Award
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- People's Postcode Lottery
- Westminster Foundation

## THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

### Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2024

	As at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds									
General fund	670,552	2,129,404	(2,373,300)	39,165	465,821	2,379,798	(2,231,759)	178,464	792,324
Designated fund	161,194	-	-	-	161,194	-	-	127,224	288,418
	831,746	2,129,404	(2,373,300)	39,165	627,015	2,379,798	(2,231,759)	305,688	1,080,742

# THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

## Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2024

### 21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	575,878	16,266	592,144
Heritage assets	316,046	-	316,046
Stock and work in progress	3,415	-	3,415
Investments	100	-	100
Debtors	526,790	287,991	814,781
Cash at bank and in hand	847,506	731,542	1,579,048
Liabilities	(1,188,992)	(660,815)	(1,849,807)
Total net assets	<u>1,080,742</u>	<u>374,986</u>	<u>1,455,727</u>

### 22 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.

### 23 Control

The charity is controlled by the Trustees.

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

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	83,874	79,955
Depreciation	43,592	51,966
(Profit) on the sale of fixed assets	(904)	(658)
Decrease in stock	1,264	174
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	102,339	(118,715)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(237,417)	613,405
<b>Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activity</b>	<u>(7,252)</u>	<u>626,127</u>

	As at 1 April 2022 £	Movement in year £	As at 31 March 2023 £	Movement in year £	As at 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,027,831	598,798	1,626,629	(47,581)	1,579,048