

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 2026

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION

Trustees

M Argo
R Collins (retired 8/11/25)
J Dennington
S Donnelly (appointed 13/11/25)
S Javid
C Knowles (appointed 13/11/25)
A Lemberger (appointed 13/11/25)
C Neame (Chair)
J Richards
J Roscoe
S Sanderson
W Stothart (retired 8/11/25)
C Swarbrick
S Williams

Secretary

Charlotte Harris

Chief Executive

Charlotte Harris

Registered office

Bickley Hall Farm
Bickley
Malpas
Cheshire
SY14 8EF

Charity number

214927

Company number

738693

Auditors

Saffery LLP
10 Wellington Place
Leeds
LS1 4AP

Bankers

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Solicitors

Excello Law
One City Place
Queens Road
Chester
CH1 3BQ

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

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THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CHAIR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

This year has been one of both progress and challenge for Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

Across the county, I have been struck by the tangible impact our teams are having for wildlife and for people. During the year, we transformed **217 sites for nature**, directly improved **1,796 hectares of habitat** and influenced management across a further **5,539 hectares**. Just as importantly, we supported over **25,000 people to take action for nature**, demonstrating the growing strength of the movement we are building together.

These achievements reflect the dedication and passion of our staff, volunteers and partners. From restoring habitats and protecting threatened sites, to supporting communities to take action, the Trust is making a real and growing contribution to nature's recovery. It is encouraging to see how this work is bringing people together and building momentum for change.

We have delivered this progress in a difficult operating environment. Like many small charities, we continue to face rising costs, increasing demand and wider economic uncertainty. Despite these pressures, the Trust has remained resilient. This reflects both the strength of our strategy and the careful stewardship of our resources, but above all the commitment and hard work of our staff, volunteers and supporters.

What remains clear to me is the urgency of our work. Nature in Cheshire, and across the UK, continues to decline, and the scale of the challenge can feel daunting. Yet I remain hopeful. We know that nature can recover, and we are already seeing encouraging signs of this through our work. The task now is to accelerate that recovery, working at greater scale and with even stronger partnerships.

November marked an important moment for the organisation as Bill Stothart stepped down as Chair. Bill has given many years of dedicated service, guiding the Trust with care, insight and a strong commitment to our mission. On behalf of all Trustees, I would like to thank him warmly for his leadership and the lasting contribution he has made.

I would like to thank everyone who supports Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Your continued commitment enables us to face these challenges with confidence and determination. Together, we are creating the conditions for a wilder, more resilient Cheshire.

Signed by:

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Charles Neame

Chair

Date: 29 September 2026

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026. 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 and Objects

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 17,455 members and over 480 volunteers, is governed by a 12-strong Board of Trustees and currently employs 55 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, dated 20 Jan 2021, 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.

Our 2030 Strategy: Wilder Cheshire is available on our website:

<https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/2030strategy>

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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.

Our vision is for a Wilder Cheshire by 2030

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

Our strategy sets out an ambitious and practical plan to create a Nature Positive Cheshire by 2030, where wildlife is recovering, habitats are restored and people are more connected to nature.

Cheshire is currently one of the most nature-depleted counties in England, with only around 12% of land remaining wildlife-rich. However, with the right action, nature can recover. Our strategy focuses on restoring ecosystems, reconnecting landscapes and enabling people, organisations and decision-makers to play their part in that recovery.

We aim to play our part in achieving national ambitions to protect and restore 30% of land for nature by 2030. We will do this by tackling the drivers of nature loss and embedding nature-positive approaches in how land is managed, how development takes place and how communities engage with the natural environment.

Our goals

Our work is guided by three long-term goals:

- Healthy nature – wildlife is abundant and ecosystems are functioning and resilient
- Stronger ecosystems – nature plays a central role in addressing climate, water and environmental challenges
- People value nature – more people understand, experience and take action to support nature

Together, these goals will deliver a Wilder Cheshire, where nature and people thrive.

How we will deliver change:

We focus our work through four strategic outcomes:

- Nature is restored at scale – creating bigger, better and more connected habitats across landscapes
- Ecological networks are stronger – improving the quality, extent and connectivity of key habitats
- The decline in wildlife slows down – protecting existing sites and supporting priority species recovery
- Capacity for nature-positive action increases – enabling communities, partners and decision-makers to act for nature

These outcomes are underpinned by a strong and resilient organisation, ensuring we have the resources, skills and partnerships needed to deliver long-term impact.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Our approach

Everything we do is guided by a clear set of principles. We put nature first, restore natural processes, work in partnership, base decisions on evidence and take a solution-focused approach. We also provide leadership and defend nature where it is under threat.

By combining practical conservation, advocacy and community action, our strategy brings together the work needed to restore nature and secure a more sustainable future for Cheshire.

Achievements and performance

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

Our headline impact in 2025/26

- 217 sites transformed for nature across Cheshire
- 1,796 hectares of habitat improved, with a further 5,539 hectares influenced through our advice and partnerships
- 597 hectares secured for nature in perpetuity
- 25,377 people supported to take action for nature
- 245,414 people reached through our communications and engagement activity

Building capacity for nature-positive action

During the year we strengthened the conditions for nature recovery by influencing decision-making and enabling more people to take action.

We engaged MPs, councillors and over 100 decision-makers, contributing to local plans, national consultations and regional partnerships to ensure nature is better reflected in policy and planning. Our campaigns mobilised supporter action and strengthened our role as a trusted voice for nature.

At the same time, we expanded the Wild Network, providing training, resources and events that enabled communities, volunteers and young people to act for nature. Through our Schools for Nature programme, we enhanced habitats across multiple schools and supported teachers and pupils to embed nature into learning.

Overall, we influenced 25,377 people to take action for nature during the year, demonstrating growing public engagement and momentum for change.

Together, this work is building a stronger, more informed movement capable of driving long-term change for nature across Cheshire.

By 2030 we will:

- Grow a county-wide movement for nature, engaging at least 3,000 people in the Wild Network

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

- Support community organisations, volunteers and educators to take action, contributing over 10,000 hours annually
- Build and maintain strong relationships with decision-makers, influencing planning and policy
- Expand our advocacy and campaigning work, ensuring nature is embedded in local and national decision-making
- Inspire more people to understand, value and act for nature through targeted engagement and training
- Ensure all eight Local Planning Authorities improve nature policies
- Enable at least 31,000 people per year to take action for nature

Slowing the decline in wildlife

We made sustained progress in improving habitats, supporting species recovery and protecting important sites from harm.

Across our nature reserves, targeted management improved habitat condition, increasing biodiversity and resilience through work including meadow restoration, woodland management, wetland enhancement and peatland recovery.

We developed plans to support priority species recovery and strengthened the evidence base to guide future action.

We also played a key role in defending nature through planning and policy work, influencing development proposals affecting large areas of land, supporting the designation of new Local Wildlife Sites and mobilising over 1,000 people in local campaigns.

This work contributed to measurable ecological impact, with 1,796 hectares of land now transformed for nature and 597 hectares secured for protection in perpetuity.

These combined actions are helping to reduce pressures on wildlife and secure improved protection for important habitats.

By 2030 we will:

- Manage over 318 hectares of nature reserves to achieve favourable condition and improve their long-term resilience
- Acquire and protect land to strengthen and buffer existing sites
- Deliver priority species recovery, including restoring water vole populations
- Defend and protect nature, reducing the loss of wildlife-rich habitats through planning and advocacy
- Engage communities and partners to increase protection and stewardship of important sites
- Protect and designate new habitat, contributing to a reduction in the rate of loss of nature-rich sites
- Mobilise at least 2,500 people annually to support campaigns protecting nature

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Restoring nature at scale

We continued to scale up delivery across priority landscapes, combining land acquisition, habitat creation and partnership working.

In the Gowy catchment, we secured funding to develop a large-scale nature-based solutions programme, acquired new land and delivered habitat improvements through partnership projects.

Across the Sandstone Ridge and Pennine Fringe, we expanded our landholding, progressed restoration planning and strengthened the evidence base to support long-term habitat recovery and species conservation.

Our influence is extending across wider landscapes, with 5,539 hectares now contributing to nature's recovery as a result of our delivery, advice and partnerships.

This landscape-scale approach is increasing habitat connectivity and restoring natural processes, creating the conditions for nature to recover across wider areas.

By 2030 we will:

- Deliver landscape-scale restoration programmes in priority areas including the Gowy catchment, Sandstone Ridge and Pennine Fringe
- Restore natural processes and create larger, better-connected habitats
- Work with landowners, farmers and partners to deliver coordinated habitat creation and restoration
- Develop and demonstrate flagship projects that show how nature recovery can be achieved at scale
- Influence management across 2,000 hectares of land in priority landscapes
- Bring 250 hectares under direct management in key landscape programmes
- Restore habitat for priority species, including 250 hectares for wading birds and new woodland and meadow creation

Strengthening ecological networks

We strengthened ecological networks by creating, restoring and connecting habitats across the county.

Wetland and peatland work included habitat creation, natural flood management and continued research into the role of natural processes.

Grassland restoration progressed through the Pollinating Cheshire programme, delivering over 30 hectares of improved habitat and supporting landowners and volunteers, with significant numbers of wildflower plants grown in our nursery.

Woodland creation and management improved habitat connectivity, supported by advice to landowners and the development of community tree nurseries.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Overall, this year we transformed 217 sites for nature, strengthening connectivity and resilience across Cheshire's ecological network.

Together, these actions are building a more connected and resilient ecological network across Cheshire.

By 2030 we will:

- Create, restore and connect 400ha of habitat across wetlands, peatlands, grasslands, heathlands, woodlands and hedgerows, enabling species to move and thrive
- Engage landowners and communities to expand and improve habitat networks
- Deliver nature-based solutions, including natural flood management and habitat restoration
- Develop innovative approaches to species recovery and reintroduction where appropriate
- Grow 205,000 wildflower plug plants and 50,000 native trees from local seed sources
- Train volunteers and communities to support habitat creation, with 30+ people trained in propagation skills

Enabling programmes – Supporting delivery of our strategy

Our enabling work has ensured we remain financially sustainable, operationally effective and capable of delivering impact at scale.

We generated income from a diverse range of sources, including commercial ecological services, membership and fundraising. This included advising landowners across hundreds of hectares and delivering strong voluntary income performance, with membership growth and successful appeals.

We reached 245,414 people through our communications and engagement activity, supported by strong digital performance and national media coverage, increasing awareness of our work and the importance of nature recovery.

We maintained strong financial oversight and planning, supported by improved forecasting and a stable year-end position, while continuing to invest in our people, systems and organisational resilience.

These enabling activities provide the foundation required to deliver increasing impact for nature now and in the future.

By 2030 we will:

- Grow and diversify income through memberships, fundraising, grants and commercial services
- Maintain strong financial management, planning and governance to ensure long-term resilience
- Invest in our people, skills and organisational capacity to deliver greater impact
- Strengthen digital systems and data, enabling better decision-making and efficiency

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

- Embed a culture of sustainability and continuous improvement across the organisation
- Increase public awareness and engagement through effective communications and marketing
- Build strong partnerships to maximise our impact for nature at scale

Financial review

Review of the year

Cheshire Wildlife Trust's overall financial position improved. Whilst income for the year fell compared to the previous year (in which we received a very generous legacy), we kept our costs under control and recorded a £48k surplus (2025: £637k surplus). The proportion of income from grants and restricted gifts relative to voluntary and commercial income fell as a result, with unrestricted income for the year of £1.9m (FY25: £1.9m) and restricted income £1.2m (FY25: £2.4m).

Expenditure for the year totalled £3.1m (FY25: £3.7m) with most of that reduction being a 19% fall in expenditure on charitable activities reflecting the reduction in grant income.

Principal funding sources

As with previous years, grants form a significant proportion of our income, making up 39.8% of total income (2025: 41.7%). The largest source of unrestricted income remains contracts and earned income, although membership subscriptions continue to provide a vital part of the Trust's ongoing unrestricted funding. The main sources of funding for the charity were:

Grants	39.8%
Contracts and earned income	32.2%
Membership income (including gift aid)	18.4%
Donations and legacies	6.4%
Appeals and sponsorship	1.3%
Other income	1.2%
Fundraising	0.8%

Generating funds

Approximately 27% of our financial support came from individuals, with trust membership being crucial as the foundation for other fundraising. As of 31 March 2026, we had 17,455 members, who provide essential funding and a collective voice for wildlife advocacy. As explained, donation and legacy income fell this year to 6.4% of total income (2025: 15.9%.) We also work closely with institutional bodies, local businesses, grant funders and charitable trusts. Significant income is generated through land management advice, 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.

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Financial reserves

Total funds	£2,140,603
Less restricted	£724,845
Less unrestricted fixed assets	£1,017,632
Free reserves incl designated funds	<u>£398,126</u>
Unrestricted cash and investments	<u>£1,335,425</u>

The Council has examined the Trust's requirements for financial reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation 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 £564,000 (four months' expenditure by the Trust; excluding that on grant-funded projects). At March 2026 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 maintain this level of 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.

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 2026 were:

- The effect of cost inflation and funding pressures on the Trust's finances.
- Continued decline of the UK's natural environment combined with insufficient societal and political support for our cause.
- The impact of changes to government policy and regulations which reduce the environmental protection and funding for protecting and restoring the natural environment.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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 association (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 are signposted to relevant 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'.

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.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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

The Trustees are responsible for setting the remuneration of the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team. They also set the remuneration framework for the Charity within which the Senior Leadership Team can offer remuneration that is fair, affordable and sufficient to recruit, retain and motivate employees with the skills required to deliver the charity's objectives. Salary levels are reviewed periodically, taking into account market benchmarking, where appropriate, organisational performance, affordability, individual responsibilities and performance, together with the charity's commitment to the prudent stewardship of charitable funds.

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 the charitable company 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 (FRS102);
- 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

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

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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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

Auditors

During the year the charity changed its auditors from Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited to Saffery LLP.

The Report of the Members of the Board on pages 5–15 was approved by the Board on 29 September 2026 and signed on their behalf:

Signed by:

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Charles Neame
Chair of Council

29 September 2026

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 2026 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including 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 charitable company's state of affairs as at 31 March 2026 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 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 charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

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

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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual 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 CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

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

- 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 and to take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Board's responsibilities set out on page 14, the Trustees (who are also 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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 specific procedures for this

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

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

engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the Trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the charitable company by discussions with Trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the charitable company operates.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the charitable company include The Companies Act 2006, and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Audit response to risks identified

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

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

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above, and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

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

Use of our report

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

Signed by:

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.....
 Sally Appleton (Senior Statutory Auditor)
 for and on behalf of Saffery LLP

10 Wellington Place,
 Leeds,
 LS1 4AP

Statutory Auditors

Date: 30 September 2026

Saffery LLP 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 2026**

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
				2026			2025
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Donations and legacies	2	782,601	40,237	822,838	629,408	651,054	1,280,462
Charitable activities	3	1,114,045	1,123,023	2,237,068	1,186,344	1,801,564	2,987,908
Investments	4	37,501		37,501	45,488		45,488
TOTAL		1,934,147	1,163,260	3,097,407	1,861,240	2,452,618	4,313,858
Expenditure							
Raising funds	5	329,566	43,513	373,079	273,343	104,551	377,894
Charitable activities	6	1,548,151	1,128,220	2,676,371	1,608,410	1,690,635	3,299,045
TOTAL		1,877,717	1,171,733	3,049,450	1,881,753	1,795,186	3,676,939
Net income/(expenditure)		56,430	(8,473)	47,957	(20,513)	657,432	636,919
Transfers between funds		98,654	(98,654)	-	200,445	(200,445)	-
Net movement in funds		155,084	(107,127)	47,957	179,932	456,987	636,919
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		1,260,674	831,972	2,092,646	1,080,742	374,985	1,455,727
Total funds carried forward		1,415,758	724,845	2,140,603	1,260,674	831,972	2,092,646

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**Balance Sheet****Year ended 31 March 2026**

		Year ended 31 March 2026		Year ended 31 March 2025	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	12	1,223,872		833,676	
Heritage assets	12	316,046		316,046	
Total tangible assets		1,539,918		1,149,722	
Investments	13	100		100	
Total fixed assets		1,540,018		1,149,822	
Current assets					
Stock	14	12,742		3,142	
Debtors	15	873,142		910,959	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,745,417		2,072,687	
Total current assets		2,631,301		2,986,788	
Liabilities					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(2,030,716)		(2,043,964)	
Net current asset		600,585		942,824	
Liabilities falling due in more than one year		-		-	
Total net assets		2,140,603		2,092,646	
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	20	1,415,758		1,260,674	
Restricted income funds	20	724,845		831,972	
Total funds		2,140,603		2,092,646	

The notes on pages 24 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

Signed by:

Charles Neame

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Signed:

Charles Neame

Signed by:

JMR

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Signed:

Jamie Richards

29 September 2026

29 September 2026

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**Statement of Cash Flow**
Year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	23	(88,749)		788,949	
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		7,268		540	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(445,789)		(295,850)	
Net cash (used in) investing activities		<u>(438,521)</u>		<u>(295,310)</u>	
Cash flows from financing activities :					
Net cash flows from new borrowing		200,000		-	
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		<u>200,000</u>			
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			<u>(327,270)</u>		<u>493,639</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			2,072,687		1,579,048
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			<u>1,745,417</u>		<u>2,072,687</u>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2026

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 2026

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 2026

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 at 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 amounts are released to income when the performance criteria have been met.

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.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2026

1.16 Material uncertainties/judgements

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

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.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2026

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 2026

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
			2026			2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	202,417	125	202,542	86,283	601,520	687,803
Subscriptions	580,184	-	580,184	543,125	-	543,125
Appeal income	-	40,112	40,112	-	49,534	49,534
	782,601	40,237	822,838	629,408	651,054	1,280,462

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
			2026			2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	23,720	-	23,720	26,379	-	26,379
Grants	135,089	1,123,023	1,258,112	-	1,799,564	1,799,564
Earned income	955,236	-	955,236	1,159,965	2,000	1,161,965
	1,114,045	1,123,023	2,237,068	1,186,344	1,801,564	2,987,908

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2026

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2026	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest received	37,501	-	37,501	45,488	-	45,488
	37,501	-	37,501	45,488	-	45,488

5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total
	£	£	2026 £	£	£	2025 £
Staff costs	15,182	182,793	197,975	4,890	202,038	206,928
Membership costs	-	44,179	44,179	-	51,044	51,044
Other direct costs	3,476	54,058	57,534	5,067	46,898	51,965
Support costs (Note 7)	5,628	67,763	73,391	1,606	66,351	67,957
	24,286	348,793	373,079	11,563	366,331	377,894

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2026

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2026	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	1,118,666	210,875	1,329,541	943,741	551,030	1,494,771
Reserves costs	503,638	134,117	637,755	942,986	95,738	1,038,724
Motor & travel	47,122	7,946	55,068	34,816	18,471	53,287
Professional fees	31,202	-	31,202	3,274	-	3,274
Sundries	85,595	15,781	101,376	141,800	33,208	175,008
Depreciation	25,541	3,013	28,554	34,687	8,396	43,083
Support costs (Note 7)	414,701	78,174	492,875	309,934	180,964	490,898
	2,226,465	449,906	2,676,371	2,411,238	887,807	3,299,045

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2026

7 Support costs

	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£	£
Training	8,305	6,384
Insurance	33,892	37,199
Light & heat	7,040	7,260
Repairs & maintenance	8,157	35,287
Legal & professional	(5,371)	30,055
Staff & volunteer expenses	13,328	7,911
Motor expenses	1,479	1,916
Telecoms	6,249	10,240
Post & stationery	3,670	3,292
Sundry expenses	21,278	10,082
RSWT contribution	23,990	24,274
Bank charges	968	1,486
Depreciation	8,716	7,647
Admin salaries	319,388	275,446
Audit fees	17,735	8,240
Computer expenses	24,814	26,596
Premises costs	67,893	60,855
Recruitment	877	1,350
Irrecoverable VAT	11,985	3,335
Doubtful debts	(8,127)	
	566,266	558,855

Allocation of support costs

	2026	2025
	£	£
Raising funds	73,391	67,957
Charitable activities	492,875	490,898
	566,266	558,855

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2026

8 Net movement in funds

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

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Auditor's remuneration	7	17,735	8,240
Operating lease payments		1,812	1,812
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets		(3,581)	2,058
Depreciation	12	51,904	51,721

9 Staff costs

	2026 £	2025 £
Wages & salaries	1,490,545	1,642,877
Social security costs	170,748	143,790
Pension costs	185,610	190,478
	<u>1,846,903</u>	<u>1,977,145</u>

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

	2026	2025
Charitable activities	36	40
Generating funds	5	8
Management & administration	8	6
	<u>49</u>	<u>54</u>

One employee received total employment benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2025: one employee).

Total remuneration (excluding employer pension costs) paid to key personnel during the year totalled £202,387 (2025: £205,322). Key personnel of the Trust are the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Nature Recovery, the Director of Fundraising & Engagement and the Director of Business & Finance.

Included within the above are redundancy payments of £29,367 relating to 4 individuals.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2026

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 £185,610 (2025: £190,478).

11 Related party transactions

No Trustee or any person connected with the Trust received any remuneration from the Trust during the year (2025: £nil).

During the year Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses of £nil (2025: £nil).

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2026

12 Tangible assets

	Heritage assets £	Land & buildings £	Plant & machinery £	Fixtures & fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	SFP entitlement £	Total £
Cost or donated value								
01 April 2025	316,046	790,824	197,030	25,248	117,444	82,278	10,258	1,539,128
Additions	-	429,176	891	7,553		8,169	-	445,789
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(14,950)	-	(10,258)	(25,208)
At 31 March 2026	316,046	1,220,000	197,922	32,800	102,494	90,447	-	1,959,709
Depreciation								
01 April 2025	-	113,684	116,840	16,103	72,417	60,104	10,258	389,406
Charge for the year	-	-	20,482	4,174	11,522	15,726	-	51,904
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(11,261)	-	(10,258)	(21,519)
At 31 March 2026	-	113,684	137,322	20,277	72,677	75,830	-	419,791
Net book value								
At 31 March 2026	316,046	1,106,316	60,599	12,523	29,817	14,617	-	1,539,918
At 31 March 2025	316,046	677,140	80,190	9,145	45,027	22,174	-	1,149,722

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2026

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.

There have been no transactions or movement in the heritage assets in the last five years.

Capital commitments

At 31 March 2026, the Trust had a capital commitment of £377,301 relating to the purchase of land and building. (2025: 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 2026****14 Stock**

	2026	2025
	£	£
Stock	<u>12,742</u>	<u>3,142</u>
	12,742	3,142

15 Debtors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade debtors	291,384	597,570
Prepayments and accrued income	204,457	313,389
Other debtors	<u>377,301</u>	<u>-</u>
	873,142	910,959

Trade debtors is stated net of a provision of £0 (2025: £8,078).

16 Taxation

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

17 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade creditors	256,983	144,137
Deferred income	1,154,765	1,457,992
Taxation & social security	102,408	75,099
Accruals	178,495	194,586
Provisions	138,065	172,150
Loans	200,000	-
	2,030,716	2,043,964

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2026

18 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2026, the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2026 £	2025 £
Land & buildings		
Within one year	72,500	67,556
Two to five years	-	67,556
Greater than five years	-	-
Total	72,500	135,112
Other		
Within one year	1,500	1,812
Two to five years	6,000	585
Greater than five years	375	-
Total	7,875	2,397

19 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 2026

	As at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income funds									
Capital grants	(6,915)	599,970	-	-	593,055	-	-	6,913	599,968
Community engagement funds	227,536	364,605	(161,765)	-	430,376	128,530	(263,779)	(259,387)	35,740
Conservation & reserves	154,364	1,268,617	(1,398,574)	(200,445)	(176,038)	1,015,230	(905,261)	153,820	87,751
Natural England SRP	-	219,426	(234,847)	-	(15,421)	19,500	(2,693)	-	1,386
	<u>374,985</u>	<u>2,452,618</u>	<u>(1,795,186)</u>	<u>(200,445)</u>	<u>831,972</u>	<u>1,163,260</u>	<u>(1,171,733)</u>	<u>(98,654)</u>	<u>724,845</u>

Capital grants represent 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.

Transfers between funds reflect reallocation due to changes in project classification, or the transfer of funds – where permitted – from a restricted project that has ended to an unrestricted fund.

Funding has been granted by a variety of organisations including:

- Biffa Award
- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire West & Chester Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council's Climate Emergency Fund
- Defra
- D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- National Lottery Awards for All
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Natural England
- Scottish Power Foundation
- Severn Trent Water
- The William Dean Trust
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- United Utilities

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts Year ended 31 March 2026

	As at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds									
General fund	792,324	1,861,240	(1,881,753)	245,489	1,017,300	1,934,147	(1,877,717)	299,104	1,372,834
Designated fund	288,418	-	-	(45,044)	243,374	-	-	(200,450)	42,924
	<u>1,080,742</u>	<u>1,861,240</u>	<u>(1,881,753)</u>	<u>200,445</u>	<u>1,260,674</u>	<u>1,934,147</u>	<u>(1,877,717)</u>	<u>98,654</u>	<u>1,415,758</u>

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2025

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2026 Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	960,250	263,622	1,223,872
Heritage assets	57,382	258,664	316,046
Stock and work in progress	2,925	9,817	12,742
Investments	100	-	100
Debtors	194,733	678,409	872,142
Cash at bank and in hand	1,355,689	389,728	1,745,417
Liabilities	(1,155,321)	(875,395)	(2,030,716)
Total net assets	<u>1,415,758</u>	<u>724,845</u>	<u>2,140,603</u>

21 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.

22 Control

The charity is controlled by the Trustees.

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

	2026 £	2025 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	47,957	636,919
Depreciation	51,904	51,721
(Profit)/loss on the sale of fixed assets	(3,581)	2,057
Decrease in stock	(9,600)	273
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	37,819	(96,178)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(213,249)	194,157
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activity	<u>(88,749)</u>	<u>788,949</u>

	As at 1 April 2024 £	Movement in year £	As at 31 March 2025 £	Movement in year £	As at 31 March 2026 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,579,048	493,639	2,072,687	(327,270)	1,745,417