

Registered number: 00561833
Charity number: 210531

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023



LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
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Contents

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the Trust, its Trustees and advisers	1 - 2
Trustees' report	3 - 19
Independent auditors' report on the financial statements	20 - 23
Consolidated statement of financial activities	24 - 25
Consolidated balance sheet	26 - 27
Trust balance sheet	28 - 29
Consolidated statement of cash flows	30
Notes to the financial statements	31 - 63

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Reference and administrative details of the Trust, its Trustees and advisers

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Patrons	Sir David Attenborough OM, CH, CVO, CBE, FRS Lady Gretton DCVO, JP Dr Laurence Howard KCVO, OBE
Vice President	Mr P L Ward MA LLB
Council of Management (elected by Members of the Charity)	Mr R D Beame Dr A J Biddle Mr J Bleby (resigned 22nd October 2022) Mr A S Moffat Ms M Morland (resigned 26 April 2022) Dr H M R Nott Dr S Petrovan Ms B Smith (resigned 14 th October 2022) Mr A J Thorpe Mrs E A Tomlinson Ms A Wilkin Mr P D Williams Mr M Youngs
Company registered number	00561833
Charity registered number	210531
Registered office	The Old Mill 9 Soar Lane Leicester LE3 5DE
Chair	Mrs E A Tomlinson
Honorary Secretary	Ms M Morland (to April 2022) Mr P D Williams (from April 2022)
Honorary Treasurer	Mr A J Thorpe
Chief Executive Officer	Mr M A Singh (interim) (December 2021 to April 2022) Mr M Hunt (interim) (May 2022 – August 2022) Mr M Carter (from August 2022)

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Reference and administrative details of the Trust, its Trustees and advisers (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Independent auditors	PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited Statutory Auditors 2 Lace Market Square Nottingham NG1 1PB
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 31 Granby Street Leicester LE1 6EP
Solicitors	Knights Plc 34 Pocklington Walk Leicester LW1 6BU
Investment Advisers	Brewin Dolphin Two Colton Square Leicester LE1 1QF

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report
For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Council, being the Trustees and directors of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (the Trust) present their Annual Report together with the audited financial statements of the Trust for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The Annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document, the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) and the Companies Act 2006.

Since the group and the Trust qualify as small under section 383 of the Companies Act 2006, the Group strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The Trust works for the protection and enhancement of wildlife and wild places in Leicestershire and Rutland. The charity is dedicated to securing a positive future for wildlife, as well as improving people's understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of wildlife by carrying out the following objects:

a) For the benefit of the public, to advance, promote and further the conservation, maintenance and protection of:

- (i) Wildlife considered to be worthy of protection for the public benefit, and its habitats;
- (ii) Places of zoological, botanical, geological or physiographical value;

in any ways that are available in law and in particular, but not exclusively, by promoting biodiversity and nature conservation.

b) To advance the education of the public in:

- (i) The principles and practice of sustainable development;
- (ii) The principles and practice of biodiversity and nature conservation.

c) To promote research in all branches of the study of the natural world which will be for the public benefit, and to record and publish the useful results thereof.

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to bring wildlife back, to empower people to take meaningful action for nature, and to create a society where nature matters.

Our Vision

Our vision is of a thriving natural world, with our wildlife and habitats playing a valued role in addressing the climate and ecological emergencies, and people inspired and empowered to take action for nature.

The Trust's Strategy to 2030: Bringing Nature Back

At the end of March 2022, the Trust formally adopted its new Strategy to 2030: Bringing Nature Back.

This Strategy is our response to the nature emergency. It recognises that the twin threats of climate breakdown and ecological collapse are the most important issues of our time.

Our work over the past 67 years has protected some of the most important places for nature, but now our work must step up a gear. As well as protecting the fragments of wildlife-rich habitat that we have left, we need to start restoring ecosystems at scale - we need to put nature into recovery.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is uniquely positioned to inspire and lead the positive ecological change that will be needed across our two counties. It is local, but also part of a strong, cohesive movement of Wildlife Trusts across the country. It has a huge opportunity to enable volunteers, members and diverse supporters to drive change within their own communities - 'Team Wilder'.

The Trust will work in close collaboration with the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts and other Wildlife Trusts, as well as other partners, individuals and communities, to achieve a wilder future, whilst supporting others to be part of this team.

The following paragraphs summarise the Trust's Strategy 2022–2030: Bringing Nature Back. Detailed work programmes for each year will drive its aims and objectives.

Our Approach:

- We are ambitious in our desire to reverse the declines in nature. We need to increase abundance and diversity by restoring and creating habitats at scale.
- We speak authentically with a bold and confident voice, and we commit to tell the truth about the state of nature and be clear about what needs to be done to put it in recovery.
- Firmly rooted in our local communities, we look after wild places, increasing people's understanding of, and connection to, the natural world.
- We look to establish common cause and work in partnership with others to develop new, innovative ways to put nature in recovery.
- We demonstrate what is possible, and inspire, empower, and enable people from all backgrounds, cultures, identities, and abilities to bring about our vision with us, embracing the diversity of our society to change the natural world for the better.
- If we get our approach right in Leicestershire and Rutland, and each Wildlife Trust does the same, we will have a collective impact that gets it right nationally and helps address global problems.

Our Goals:

1. Nature in Leicestershire and Rutland is in recovery with abundant, diverse wildlife and natural processes creating wilder land where people and nature thrive.
2. People in Leicestershire and Rutland are taking action for nature and the climate, resulting in better decision-making for the environment at both the local level and national level.
3. Nature in Leicestershire and Rutland is playing a central and valued role in helping to address local and global problems.

The Required Transformations:

1. Developing our role as a trusted source of knowledge and expertise
2. Working effectively nationally and locally
3. Inspiring, organising and mobilising people and communities
4. Undergoing a 'root and branch' digital transformation
5. Delivering a step-change in the scale and diversity of funding for nature's recovery

The Enabling Priorities:

1. Responding to the climate and ecological emergency - getting our own house in order
2. Ensuring our nature reserves and landscape-scale initiatives are the foundation for nature's recovery
3. Develop clear and consistent evidence-based policies
4. Invest in a highly-skilled and diverse staff and volunteer network, and build a movement-wide learning culture
5. Speak with authority and a confident voice, instilling trust and further increasing our impact and influence

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

The delivery of this Strategy is the basis for the Trust's day-to-day work, safeguarding wildlife by:

Working to protect and enhance biodiversity

We care for 35 nature reserves covering over 1,300 hectares (over 3,210 acres) spread across Leicestershire and Rutland. From woodland to meadows, wetland to heaths, these reserves contain a rich variety of animal and plant species, many rare.

In the wider countryside we work with landowners, local authorities, agencies, businesses, and other partners and stakeholders to increase the amount of land that is being managed for the benefit of nature. The Trust's Living Landscape Areas provide the geographical framework for this work.

Research and survey

We monitor, study and survey the wildlife of our counties to identify special places and important species, to inform management and promote nature conservation, and to protect local biodiversity.

Advocacy and speaking up for nature

We campaign for wildlife, protecting threatened habitats like wildflower meadows and rare species such as ospreys, otters, bats, and water voles.

Encouraging people to enjoy nature

We offer everyone the chance to experience fantastic wildlife and wild places with access to our nature reserves across the two counties, and also through our engagement work, activities and events, volunteering, our visitor centres, and working within our local communities.

Inspiring and educating

We are passionate about inspiring everyone, of all ages and from all backgrounds, to love and care for wildlife and wild places. We have education programmes and a wide variety of activities, groups and events for families and children. And we want to help all communities and cultures experience and have access to nature and its beneficial impacts.

The above key aims are incorporated into the Trust's annual work plan, which identifies the priorities for each year, and sets out the work that needs to be carried out to achieve them. Progress against this detailed work plan is subject to regular review by management and the Council of the Trust. The work carried out in the year ended 31 March 2023 is set out in the Strategic Report section.

Public Benefit Statement

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

The Trust's public benefit is enshrined in its charitable objects as outlined above. The Trust fulfils its objects and delivers its public benefit through its core activities of protecting and enhancing the wildlife and wild places of Leicestershire and Rutland and engaging people with nature.

b. Grant-making policies

The Trust operates a small grants scheme under its "Charnwood Forest Living Landscapes" project, to assist farmers and landowners in that area with practical nature conservation schemes.

c. Charitable and Political Donations

The Trust made no charitable or political donations during the year.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Report

a. Introduction

The year ended 31 March 2023 saw the stabilisation and consequent improvement in the Trust's overall financial position as a result of the return to full capacity after the impacts of the Covid pandemic. In addition, the year saw the establishment of the bedrock for the ambitious and important Strategy to 2030 described above.

The work carried out to do this, together with the continuous rolling programme of work to deliver the Trust's charitable objects, is set out in the paragraphs below.

This information, including the Review of Achievements and Performance, Financial Review, Risk Management Statement and Summary of Future Plans, forms the Strategic Report for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006.

b. Review of achievements and performance for the year

This Annual Report reviews the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and outlines the progress and achievements over the course of the year.

NATURE IN RECOVERY: WORKING TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY

Wildlife Havens – Our Nature Reserves

The Trust's nature reserves provide protection for an amazing diversity of wildlife, some rare and threatened, as well as giving people the opportunity to experience and learn about the rich variety of habitats that were once widespread.

The Trust currently manages 35 nature reserves covering more than 1,300 hectares (3,212 acres) including 19 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), two National Nature Reserves, and a Special Protection Area.

This year, with volunteer teams back up to strength, there was a chance to catch up on the backlog of work occasioned by Covid and lockdowns. To help with this, the Trust increased its grazing flock of sheep for employment at Rutland Water Nature Reserve and on the various limestone grassland reserves around the counties.

Across our reserve sites we saw evidence of a growing number of resident otters, good barn owl breeding success, and rare purple emperor butterflies seen at eight of the Trust's reserves. Stonechats also bred at Chamwood Lodge Nature Reserve for the third year in a row, and the Rutland Osprey Project saw another good breeding year with 22 chicks fledging.

Conservation management work included scrub clearance and coppicing. Hedgerow management involved both traditional hedge-laying techniques and innovative methods.

The planting of 2,000 trees at Rutland Water Nature Reserve, many to replace ash removed because of disease, was funded by the kind legacy of James Banfield.

Thanks to a generous donation from volunteer and Trust member Alistair Lawrence, a new wildflower meadow was created near Lagoon 6 at Rutland Water Nature reserve, and a further donation, from the Smith-Barnard Charitable Trust, enabled us to supplement the planting of native-species trees in the Cherry Wood area of that Reserve.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Report (continued)

Champions for wildlife – landscapes, species, and influencing decision-makers

Landscape-scale conservation is a major element of the Trust's 2030 Strategy. Working with landowners and other partners to bring more land into management that is sympathetic to nature will help increase biodiversity levels, and is essential to dealing with the two major crises – in loss of biodiversity and in climate change - which our planet is currently experiencing.

Working with landowners and other partners

Over the year we have developed links with both existing and new partners to further our landscape-scale strategy for the two counties, which will build on our current Living Landscape areas. These connections will hopefully result in significant new areas of land being managed with nature in mind, joining up with our existing network of sites. The next Financial Year should see tangible progress.

Meanwhile we engaged with ten Charnwood Forest landowners for the Grasslands project in the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme to ensure we met the project's targets during the year. Combined with the Trust's nature reserve landholdings, this impacts a total of 61.7 hectares. During the year 2022/23, landowners responsible for 32 sub-sites have actively engaged in managing grassland in a positive way for wildlife.

We are partners in the Saving the Saffron Brook project with Trent Rivers Trust, community groups and local authorities, to restore the ecosystem of the brook, which is a major tributary of the River Soar. This includes regeneration and restoration of wetland habitats in the floodplain at our Lucas' Marsh Nature Reserve, part of Brock's Hill Country Park, Oadby.

We continue to participate in the initial work to establish the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Nature Partnership. This partnership, set up under the Environment Act 2021, also involves local authorities from the city, county and districts, Natural England, the Forestry Commission, and the National Forest Company. The Partnership will develop the Local Nature Recovery Network Strategy for our counties.

By working with partners at Airwick, World Wildlife Fund and Trent Rivers Trust, we have helped to enhance over 25 hectares of grassland for pollinators at Cossington Meadows and at Mountsorrel and Rothley Marshes Nature Reserves, with more planned for the future at Loughborough Big Meadow and Wanlip Meadows Nature Reserves. Already the bees and butterflies have noticeably increased in the areas seeded with wildflowers and these will spread naturally to provide more nectar-rich grassland for pollinating insects in the future.

We have run regular training sessions and supported recorders to help people identify and record plant and animal species in the Charnwood Forest GeoPark. Working with our partners (National Forest Company and NatureSpot), this has formed part of an ambitious target to attract more wildlife recorders and achieve our target of 10,000 species records within the GeoPark logged by people who are new to wildlife recording. The sessions range from bats, birds and insects to lichens, plants and trees, and provide an important source of information on the health of nature and where priorities to help more recovery may be needed in the future.

Targeting species

As detailed in the volunteering section below, both staff and volunteers were very active in monitoring and surveying sites over the course of the year. This data helps us understand the state of the environment and levels of biodiversity, and can be used to guide and refine our conservation approach on different sites.

The second of what is planned to be regular and comprehensive reports on the wildlife at Rutland Water Nature Reserve was published. Over 124,000 wetland birds of 66 species were counted in Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS).

There were record numbers of Great White Egrets on the Reserve and more than 52,000 gulls were counted in the winter gull roost survey. In addition, 5,598 birds were ringed by the bird-ringing group. Invertebrate species were also targeted, with 468 species of moth identified in moth-trapping surveys, and 25 species of butterfly recorded. In just eight survey visits, 600 species of beetles were identified.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Report (continued)

Aquatic invertebrate surveys at Rutland Water Nature Reserve were assisted by students from the University of Leicester and Nottingham Trent University.

During 2022-23 we raised £5,000 through generous donations from local wildlife groups to buy a Motus tower to be installed at Rutland Water Nature Reserve. The Motus tower is a tracking device that will enable us to monitor migrating birds and bats, such as the uncommon Nathusius' Pipistrelle, helping us to develop a better understanding of how climate change is affecting migratory animals.

The Rutland Osprey Project, a partnership between the Trust and Anglian Water, has been in place for the past 27 years, and has successfully established a breeding colony of ospreys in Rutland.

During this year's breeding season, a total of 22 chicks were raised from 10 nests at sites in Leicestershire and Rutland. This brings the total of chicks raised during the lifetime of the project to 253. Once again, we were assisted by Tim Mackrill from the Osprey Leadership Foundation in monitoring nests, including those on platforms.

Advocacy and speaking up for nature

A whole range of policies and decisions can affect our wildlife and wild places. With ever-increasing agricultural, housing, and other development pressures in Leicestershire and Rutland, it is crucial that there is an effective voice for wildlife at a local, county, and regional level.

We emailed our members and supporters encouraging them to take part in the #DefendNature campaign, led by The Wildlife Trusts movement as a whole, to influence national Government decision-making that affects nature and the natural environment. Our supporters wrote to their local MPs to ask them to help defend nature by maintaining regulations that protect the environment and by supporting new moves to care for nature. We continue to support the ongoing campaign through our social media channels and by direct messaging to our supporters.

Support was provided to various Wildlife Trust national petitions and campaigns such as HS2, Action for Insects, the "Say No to Peat Compost" Campaign, and Team Wilder initiatives.

Working in the community

The Trust believes that it is vital to provide opportunities for people to learn about the natural world and the need to safeguard its future. We have a responsibility to educate the next generation so that they in turn will play a crucial role as future guardians of our natural heritage.

Nextdoor Nature

In December 2022 we started the exciting Nextdoor Nature project in Leicester, working with people and partner organisations within the city to help them create wild green spaces where they live and work. This is part of a nationwide initiative coordinated with the whole Wildlife Trust movement, and generously funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The first projects put into action were supporting Belgrave Library Community Garden to develop their green corridor vision in partnership with local authorities and organisations, supporting a wild plant recording project called StreetWild, and a film project with Leicester College film students.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Report (continued)

INSPIRING PEOPLE – EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Green Influencers Scheme

The Green Influencers Scheme is a youth-led project set up to support 10-14 year-olds to take environmental social action where they live. Since 2021, nine school and community youth groups, involving 113 young people across Leicestershire, devised and executed their own projects with our support. These included projects to transform school grounds and local green spaces, and to educate other people about protecting our environment and acting for nature. The Trust's Green Influencers Scheme was one of 44 schemes across the UK, funded by The Ernest Cook Trust and the #iwill Fund.

The groups started off with a seed fund of £360 each and were entitled to apply for a £5,000 fund in addition to this. Although Green Influencers has come to an end this year, its impact continues. The Woodcraft Group created videos around the theme of 'litter' and have continued with the work since the end of the Scheme, with plans to use some of the money awarded to do a canoe litter-pick. Longfield Academy Wellbeing Group were successful in applying for the £5,000 fund and are looking to continue work on their school pond. We are grateful to the Ernest Cook Trust for the financial support given.

Rutland Osprey Project

The Rutland Osprey Project continues to be an enormously effective way of communicating the importance of nature and biodiversity to the general public.

The Rutland Osprey Project section of the Trust website provided comprehensive information on the behaviour of the ospreys through the live webcam footage of the osprey nest in the Manton Bay area of the Nature Reserve. Our Osprey webcam continues to be very popular with 473,066 views during the year, even attracting Hollywood interest from actor and environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio, who shared a social media post about the Rutland Water ospreys.

Wild Forest School

Our programme of Forest School sessions with inner city children is made possible thanks to the generous support of players of the People's Postcode Lottery through our Wild Forest School project. Since 2015, the Forest Schools team have reached over 750 primary children and over 200 home-educated children, and have created wildlife gardens, held Wild Play events and Wild Tots session, and provided teacher training to take the Forest School ethos further.

Thanks to support from the Melton Building Society, Howard Watson Symington Memorial Charity, and Central England Cooperative Society, we have also been able to work with seven schools in Melton Mowbray and Market Harborough, where we ran 65 sessions with 144 children. The Trust also delivered Forest School sessions at Attenborough Arboretum, owned by the University of Leicester.

To celebrate the initiative's achievements, the Trust made a short film with a group of children from Charnwood Primary School, Leicester, highlighting the powerful, positive benefits that Forest School and immersion in nature bring, helping to inspire the next generation.

Wild Play

We continued our Wild Play activities of nature-inspired fun for young children in the summer of 2022. This partnership project at Attenborough Arboretum and Burbage Common is delivered with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. We also ran Woodland Workshops and nursery sessions for younger children. A total of 26 Wild Play sessions were delivered over 585 hours across the year, with an average of 15 children per session.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Report (continued)

Volunteering

Volunteering provides intrinsic benefits through improved health and well-being, and enables The Trust to achieve even more for nature conservation.

The Trust is very appreciative of the hard work, commitment, and dedication of all our volunteers, who provide vital support by undertaking a wide range of tasks across all areas of the Trust's activities and initiatives. Their skills and knowledge underpin our achievements and progress.

During the year, 619 volunteers delivered nearly 26,000 volunteer hours in total across Leicestershire and Rutland.

At Rutland Water Nature Reserve our volunteers are vitally important to the success of the Lyndon Visitor Centre and the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, where many people reconnect with nature and wildlife. During this year our volunteers gave 1,838 hours of their time at the Lyndon Visitor Centre and 2,058 hours at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre where they welcomed visitors, provided information about local wildlife to see, and helped with retail activities.

In addition, 68 volunteers spent 2,314 hours monitoring, surveying and recording wildlife at the Reserve, and 108 volunteers spent 5,152 hours monitoring, surveying and recording the activities of the ospreys. Volunteers also restored pond habitats at Lyndon.

As part of our involvement in the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme we continued grasslands surveys and training for volunteers in grassland management and wildlife monitoring.

The Wider Countryside volunteer team in and around the Charnwood area provided over 500 hours on butterfly and bird transects, and over 600 hours on grassland surveys and grassland management.

Across our reserves, the Limestone Group Volunteers undertook 774 hours of work and the Ketton Quarry volunteer shepherds (who help monitor the Ketton flock) carried out 120 hours of work. The Charnwood Lodge volunteer team carried out a total of 6,088 hours.

We continued to host trainees on long-term placement, with one based at the Leicester office and two at Rutland Water Nature Reserve. Our trainee scheme allows them to gain skills and experience needed to build a career in the nature conservation sector, while at the same time providing a valuable contribution to the Trust's work.

In our Leicester Office, volunteers contributed 183 hours helping with administration.

Events and activities

Event and activities across the Trust were able to return to normal scheduling this year. Walks, talks and hands-on experience via outdoor courses in activities such as dry-stonewalling and hedge-laying were reinstated as full programmes. We were able to recommence our Dawn Chorus events at Rutland Water Nature Reserve. Badger-watching also resumed at that Reserve, with a re-located hide. We were able to improve access at Tilton Cutting Nature Reserve with a new ramp to replace unstable steps, and cleared vegetation from rock faces to give better viewing opportunities. This task was made possible by an in-kind contribution from CR Civil Engineering.

The Trust's Lyndon Visitor Centre, located on Rutland Water Nature Reserve, played host to 25,000 visitors this year. People came to see the Osprey Project, as well as birdwatching and wildlife-spotting at this quieter section of the Reserve.

We were pleased to be able to host the Wildlife Recording Society's AGM. This took place at our Rutland Water Volunteer Training Centre, and it was a successful in-person and online event, attracting participants from around the world.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Report (continued)

Wildlife Watch

With regret, we closed our Wildlife Watch activities for junior Trust members and their parents. This was a very hard decision to take. Watch activities really enriched children's understanding of nature, but only reached relatively small numbers. Moreover, we have been struggling to maintain an adequate level of volunteers to run the sessions. Consequently, we have decided to rethink our approach, in order to meet the important engagement aims in our 2030 Strategy, and will now focus our resources on ways of reaching more children and young people.

DEVELOPING AND BROADENING SUPPORT AND INFLUENCE

Communications

A strong profile and presence are essential in the modern world to ensure the Trust can inform people and engage them with its work. This impacts all groups, including staff, volunteers, members, and other supporters. Using various communication channels, both online and other media, we have been able to communicate key messages, grow our reach, and continue to build our profile.

Our Annual Review, Wild magazine and fortnightly email newsletters continue to provide regular communication and updates for members. We have also used email to engage with contacts who are not yet members, and used various lead generation methods to gather new email data. We now have over 7,500 supporter email contacts, a growth of 2,200 since April 2022, and this resource continues to grow.

The Trust website is a highly-visited platform, and is used to share blogs, news and information. Numbers of followers continue to rise across our social media platforms. Facebook followers have increased by 842 to 7,322, Instagram by 535 to 3,305 and Twitter by 295 to 9,925.

We also use social media channels to support our volunteer groups.

Support for the Trust

In order to carry out its work any charity needs a strong and enthusiastic support base, and the Trust is no exception. Members are the lifeblood of the Trust, contributing in many different ways – providing income, giving volunteer help, offering moral support and exercising influence. A committed and engaged membership that is representative of the local community is vital to the success of the Trust. In addition, support from donors, businesses, and legacies is crucial to generating income to support the Trust's work. All these elements complement the central core of resource provided by the Trust's staff and governance structures.

The Trust is fortunate to receive support from many different sources and it is extremely grateful to all those who help us in our work, in any way they choose.

Membership

As at 31 March 2023, Trust membership stood at 18,400. This represents a net increase of 490 over the prior year. The 'cost of living' pressures affecting household bills are having a negative effect on people's discretionary spend generally and, in common with other charities, this is having an impact on membership growth. We continue to trial membership initiatives to attract and retain members, including discounted membership in a January Sale, and offering incentives such as a free 'bee' pack. Where individual members who are experiencing some financial hardship through the cost of living crisis were considering cancelling their Trust membership, we have been able to offer alternative subscription arrangements. The Trust is very grateful for the support of both established and new members.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Report (continued)

Fundraising Appeals

Appeal-giving provides an important source of unrestricted funding for the Trust so we can do more to ensure nature's recovery and engage more people with the natural world. As a joint initiative with the whole Wildlife

Trust movement, we launched the State of Nature Crisis Appeal, which raised £10,850 plus Gift Aid in the year ended 31 March 2023.

In addition, our Rutland Osprey Appeal received £6,180 plus Gift Aid. This appeal was to celebrate 25 years of the Osprey Project since its inception and to help fund the next 25 years. The appeal helped raised funds to continue Osprey conservation by recording, monitoring, maintaining nests, and ringing work, as well as working with landowners to install more nests, and improving community engagement across schools and organisations in Leicestershire and Rutland.

We are grateful to all who responded to our appeals during the year.

Corporate Support

We are very grateful to the businesses and organisations that supported our new strategy 'Bringing Nature Back to Leicestershire and Rutland' and contributed to the projects we delivered during the year ended 31 March 2023.

Legacy and memorial funding

Legacies and memorial funding are of huge value to the Trust in providing substantial funding which allows investment the growth and development of the charity and its work. In the year ended 31 March 2023, the Trust received legacy income of £173,688.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of supporters who remember the Trust in their wills, and particularly in the last year the late Malcolm Jackson, Sylvia Canetti, Hugh Dixon, Debbie Sawday, Andrea Tebbutt, Maggie Frankum, Anthony Squires, Kathleen Potterton, and Helen Boynton.

We are also grateful to have received a number of donations from friends and family in memory of loved ones. Legacies and In Memoriam donations make a tremendous difference to the amount of conservation work the Trust is able to achieve.

We are able to offer a free will-making service through Guardian Angel. Through this we received eight pledges during the year.

Valuing and thanking our supporters

The Trust relies on the support and loyalty of our members; on the dedicated work of Local Groups that provide guided walks, lectures and talks, fundraising and social events throughout the year; and on the efforts of more than 619 volunteers who are involved in virtually every aspect of the Trust's work.

The financial statements of the Trust include all monetary transactions, in particular donations and similar contributions, but the value of the time and efforts of the hundreds of unpaid volunteers who support the work of the Trust is not quantified. The Trust's volunteers are active in numerous areas of the Trust's work. They provide major assistance, including in areas such as conservation work, wildlife monitoring and recording, retail activities, administration, fund-raising, community awareness, youth involvement, governance, and financial and technical advice and help. Activities such as the Rutland Osprey Project would not be possible without the large number of volunteer hours contributed. In all, we estimate more than 26,000 volunteer hours across the whole of the Trust's work were given during the year.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Report (continued)

As specified by the Charities SORP (FRS 102), no monetary value is put on such contributions, varied as they are, nor does the Trust feel it is helpful or productive to do so. However, the sheer scale of volunteers' input is clear.

It is therefore appropriate that this help is formally acknowledged, and gratitude expressed, for what our volunteers help the Trust to achieve. The part played by volunteers remains a vital element of the Trust's work, and without such grass-roots activity, the continuing success of the Trust would not be possible.

In addition, the Trust gratefully acknowledges all those who have given their support over 2022/2023, including a range of businesses and organisations.

Financial review

a. Overall results for the year

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Trust and its subsidiary, Leicestershire Wildlife (Sales) Limited, (together constituting "the Group") shows a net reduction in funds for the year of £69,771 (2022: reduction in funds of £193,496) after revaluation of investments, and total reserves of £5,399,607 (2022: £5,469,378).

The Trust's core income, obtained via membership subscriptions, donations and legacies, allows the Trust to continue its central work of maintaining and expanding its nature reserves and carrying on its educational and advocacy work. Other sources of funding received during the year are in the main applied to specific projects, generating matching expenditure.

The results for the year, which show an excess of income over expenditure before tax, transfers between funds and various gains and losses on unrestricted funds of £87,642 (2022: deficit £201,515), were significantly ahead of the Trust's operational budget due primarily to increased income. Membership income including Gift Aid rose by 6% and unrestricted donations increased by 193%.

The consolidated balance sheet at the year-end continues to show the Group in a strong asset position. Cash balances, although down, will allow the Group to continue to invest in business development for the next year or two, and also provide the lead-time needed to start generating the increase in unrestricted income streams arising from this and earlier investment. The unrestricted financial reserves of the Group are discussed below.

The principal activity of the wholly-owned subsidiary, Leicestershire Wildlife (Sales) Limited, is nature conservation contracts and wildlife consultancy, plus retailing operations.

The subsidiary made an overall profit for the year, before tax, of £46,930 (2022: loss £7,798). The profits enabled the subsidiary to bounce back to positive reserves which should mean that in future years donations can be made from future profits to the Trust.

b. Financial reserves

The Charities SORP (FRS102) requires a charity to state the amount and type of financial reserves it holds, and to compare how the level of those reserves matches up to "the level of reserves the trustees feel is appropriate given their plans for the future activities of the charity". Where it falls short, the trustees need to explain what steps they are taking to rectify the situation. In this context the Trust views financial reserves as those held in its unrestricted funds. In addition to the Charitable Accumulated Fund, the balance of which stood at £318,913 at the year-end (2022: £274,614), further unrestricted funds are held within the Designated Funds described in the paragraphs below.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees establish the appropriate level of unrestricted reserves (over and above those already ring-fenced for future plans or known liabilities within the Designated Funds) by seeking to ensure that the level of the Trust's 'free reserves' meets a chosen benchmark related to the budgeted expenditure for unrestricted activities. The Trustees define 'free reserves' as the unrestricted net assets of the Group, plus cash or near-cash reserves and listed investments that could be sold at short notice held within the Trust Development Fund (see below).

The chosen benchmark is a figure equivalent to four months' budgeted expenditure for the year ahead. This level will continue to be reviewed for adequacy and robustness to ensure the Trust maintains adequate finances to meet day-to-day operating costs and to provide headroom for stock, debtors and cash-flow fluctuations.

At 31 March 2023, the Trust's 'free reserves' stood at £974,053 (2022: £899,014), resulting in a surplus of £413,608 (2022: £374,863) when compared with the current benchmark of £560,445 (2022: £524,151).

Other risks which have an impact on financial reserves, and the Trust's strategy for their management and mitigation, are discussed in the Risk Management section below.

Designated funds

Within its total unrestricted reserves, the Trust, as permitted by the Charities SORP (FRS 102), has set up a number of designated funds as a means of ring-fencing financial reserves to meet anticipated costs or liabilities. These individual designated funds are as follows:

Heritage Assets and Other Fixed Assets

This fund holds all the Trust's nature reserve properties not otherwise held in the restricted financial reserves, together with other fixed assets forming an integral part of the Trust's operating requirements.

The year-end balance on the Heritage and Fixed Assets Funds stood at £1,336,787 (2022: £1,243,394).

Trust Development Fund

This fund comprises assets which may be used to provide financial resources towards projects furthering the Trust's charitable objects, or key operational requirements for the Trust's long-term development. This could include land acquisition for nature reserves; land and/or property acquisition to allow the Trust to carry out its work effectively; maintenance and enhancement work on existing nature reserves; education projects; advocacy work; operational support.

This fund will be supplemented over time by rent from the Trust's investment properties, income from the Trust's investment portfolio, and surpluses from the Trust's unrestricted operations to the extent to which the Trustees deem such transfers to be appropriate, having taken into account the existing operational requirements of the Trust.

The balance on the Trust Development Fund at the year-end stood at £1,275,140 (2021: £1,244,400) and is made up as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Investment properties	620,000	620,000
Investments	198,331	213,364
Current assets	456,809	411,036
	<hr/> 1,275,140	<hr/> 1,244,400

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Pension Costs Fund

This designated fund is designed to help meet future costs associated with the defined benefit section of the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme.

The Trustees aim to designate reserves within this fund, as appropriate and available, to provide a cushion against future revaluations of the Scheme which result in a charge to the Income and Expenditure account, over and above the established annual charge to eliminate the deficit.

As explained in note 29 to the financial statements, the liabilities relating to each company in the Scheme can be separately identified. However, in the opinion of the Trustees and directors of both the Trust and its subsidiary, Leicestershire Wildlife (Sales) Limited, the obligation relating to settlement of any liabilities and contributions due in respect of the defined benefit section of the Scheme, including those of the subsidiary, resides with the parent company, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust. The pension charge relating to the subsidiary, and that company's remaining liability to the Scheme, are therefore aggregated with those of the Trust and included in the Trust's accounts.

The Trustees will aim to ensure that the Pension Costs Designated Fund will continue to hold sufficient to cover 1 to 2 years' worth of future liabilities in respect of both companies.

At the year-end, the balance on the Pension Costs Fund stood at £54,282 (2022: £108,720).

c. Fundraising policy and practice

A significant amount of the Trust's income comes from individuals by way of membership recruitment and the consequent receipt of subscriptions. As part of its membership strategy, the Trust engages the services of

Wildlife Fundraising (Central) Limited ("WFCL"), a company set up by the Trust in common with six other Wildlife Trusts within the region. Both this company and the Trust are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to the Fundraising Code of Practice. The Trust works closely with WFCL and receives regular reports on the performance of its recruiters. The business strategy in place does not permit intrusive, persistent, or pressurised recruiting methods. No complaints have been received during the course of the year by either Trust or WFCL in respect of recruitment and fundraising.

'Face-to-face' recruitment carried out by WFCL on behalf of the Trust continued during the financial year and the Trust has also continued to develop its digital recruitment through social media and online channels.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

d. Investment powers and policy

The Trust's investments are made up of investment properties and financial instruments.

The Trust holds a number of investment properties, with a combined value of £620,000 (2022: £620,000). These comprise a part of the Trust's headquarters building which is let to third-party tenants, and buildings and related land at Charnwood Lodge nature reserve which were bequeathed to the Trust.

The Trust's investment portfolio, originating from a bequest, stood at £198,331 at the year-end (2022: £228,045). The portfolio value remained relatively stable across the year. The income yield was 2.5% but after reflecting falls in the capital value the overall yield was -4.7%. The Trust's strategy is to hold the portfolio in pooled investment products, helping to streamline investment decisions, and spread risk. Over time, these investments are also being switched into investment funds that aim to follow ecological principles. The Trustees consider that the financial reserves represented by the portfolio will provide important assistance in ensuring the Trust continues to develop and grow despite very difficult economic circumstances nationally and globally.

Otherwise, the Trust's overall financial reserves are held in cash, reflecting the high cash-flow requirements of the organisation and the need to be ready to respond to acquisition and engagement opportunities. Subject to this general principle, the Trustees continue to review the needs of the specific categories of financial reserves described above with a view to ensuring that the assets allocated to them are managed to their best advantage, according to whether income or capital growth is the priority, and bearing in mind both the economic environment in which the Trust operates, and the need to ensure the Trust continues to fulfil all of its charitable objects.

e. Risk management

As an on-going exercise, the Council examines the principal areas of the Trust's operations during the year and considers the major risks that may arise. In the opinion of the Council, the Trust has established procedures and systems that, under normal conditions, should allow the risks identified by them to be mitigated to an acceptable level in day-to-day operations.

As part of its general processes, the Trust compiles a Risk Register which is regularly reviewed by Council. The Register identifies risks in a number of key areas and outlines control procedures and actions to manage and mitigate these risks:

- Funding and economic needs – regular review of funding requirements; careful monitoring of financial reserves; close contact with a wide range of key funders; ongoing membership recruitment campaigns.
- Governance and management – good communication and flow of information with Council, staff and volunteers; review of policies and procedures.
- Operational effectiveness and performance – monitoring progress against annual work plan and overall Strategy; effective Health and Safety guidelines and procedures; robust IT systems and backup procedures; staff and volunteer training and development; asset management.
- Financial systems and controls – accurate and up-to-date financial reporting; close monitoring of internal controls.
- External relationships and perception – development of publications, websites and social media; close contact and liaison with key partners.
- Compliance with laws and regulations – ongoing monitoring and review of changes; adherence to best practice.
- Pension Scheme liability – ongoing monitoring of the Scheme valuations (see note 29 to the financial statements) to ensure adequate provisioning is made.

During the year, and in line with the strengthening of the management team, the detailed trustee-led process implemented on a temporary basis in year ended 31 March 2022 has been replaced with staff-led strategic risk-monitoring working groups which have been set up to cover the areas of Health and Safety, GDPR, safeguarding, and IT. These join the established Finance and Audit Committee. Trustees participate in these groups as necessary, and the Council receives periodic reports on activity.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust was founded in 1956 and is a registered charity (no. 210531) and a company limited by guarantee (no. 00561833). It is a membership organisation governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. As at 31 March 2023, a total of 18,400 members supported the Trust's work.

The Trust is managed by a Council of Trustees ('the Council'), elected from the membership of the Trust, who provide the overall direction for the development of the Trust. The Council, as governing body, has ultimate responsibility for the operation of the Trust. Where appropriate, sub-committees exist to advise the Council.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The appointment of Trustees is governed by the Articles of Association of the Trust, which include a provision for the retirement by rotation of one-third of Trustees at each Annual General Meeting. New Trustees are appointed to complement and strengthen existing skills on Council or bring new expertise to the Trust. New Trustees usually have prior involvement with the Trust's work, but undergo further induction as applicable. All new Trustees receive the appropriate constitutional, financial and legal information regarding the work of the Trust and their obligations as Trustees. New Trustees who are co-opted onto the Council during the year have their appointment ratified at the next Annual General Meeting.

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The day-to-day running of the Trust is carried out by a team of 38 employed staff, headed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), reporting to the Council. Pay and remuneration of the Trust's operational staff, including key management personnel, is established by reference to an overall grading structure established by the Council. The salary bands within this structure are reviewed periodically with reference to market conditions.

Trustees formulate, in consultation with staff, the overall strategy for the Trust, its work and its development. The Council then oversees the delivery of the overall strategy, as well as ensuring all necessary governance requirements are met.

Progress against this strategy is monitored regularly by Council and staff, and is measured against performance targets.

The Trust's wholly-owned subsidiary, Leicestershire Wildlife (Sales) Limited, provides an integral contribution to the delivery of the Trust's charitable objects, and the subsidiary's surpluses, arising from its consultancy and retail operations, go to support the Trust's operations.

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is one of 46 individual Wildlife Trusts that form a powerful conservation network of local charities taking effective action to protect the UK's natural heritage. Together this network has over 800,000 members, manages more than 2,300 nature reserves, runs thousands of projects and events, and works together to ensure that both local and national policies and decisions are in the best interest of wildlife and wild places. Whilst the Trust remains an independent charity, it works with this national network in progressing its major conservation initiatives.

The Chief Executive Officer

Michael Singh, who had been engaged as Interim CEO in December 2021, unfortunately had to step down for health reasons in April 2022. He was replaced in the Interim CEO role by Martin Hunt. The Trust is extremely grateful to both these individuals for their hard work and leadership in helping the Trust emerge from difficulties brought about by the impacts of the Covid pandemic.

The Trust's permanent CEO, Matthew Carter, came into post on 30 August, 2022.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Plans for future periods

As explained above, much of the Trust's work in the year ended 31 March 2023 has been in consolidation after the impacts of the Covid pandemic, and in setting the framework for the delivery of the 2030 Strategy.

The Trust greatly values its staff team. But in order to meet the new challenges arising from a refocusing of the Trust's work delivering the 2030 Strategy, it was important that the team was properly structured, professional and resilient.

Following a comprehensive consultation process with staff, a new staff structure was implemented on 1st April 2023. This restructuring has allowed the Trust to ensure it can prioritise the key elements of internal strength and external engagement with supporters, partners and other stakeholders.

Within this new structure, the Management Team under the Chief Executive Officer comprises the following: Head of Nature Reserves; Head of Nature Recovery (new post); Head of Fundraising (new post); Finance, IT and Support Services Manager; and Engagement Manager (new post).

As well as ensuring the structure was fit for purpose there was work to ensure that Policies and Procedures were reviewed and updated to support our work. This included reviews of our HR Policies (and updating to reflect new requirements), further strengthening our approach to Health & Safety, external review of our Safeguarding measures (and improvements based on recommendations from this), and starting a review of our IT systems that is leading to future actions. As Managers were recruited into the new structure, we have continued to build further improvements into our activities, reflecting this new expertise and direction. All of this work has been focused on ensuring improved future delivery and efficiency.

The key to the continuing strength of the Trust's financial position, enabling it to respond to the challenges of the 2030 Strategy and enabling far-sighted and ambitious projects and work programmes, is access to reliable and productive income streams, whether this be via our engagement with individual supporters, corporate entities, grant-making institutions, or other bodies. We have dedicated resources to delivering our membership offer in reflection of the importance of this to our work and finances. We have also strengthened our corporate and grant-funding expertise and capacity through our recruitment.

In our restructure we highlighted the importance of the technical skills required to deliver our core duty (such as Conservation expertise, Reserve management, Engagement, and Volunteer management) identifying training requirements and recruitment needs which we have subsequently started addressing.

Effort was made throughout the year to support staff through a period of change and develop a culture that supported future delivery, with an emphasis on staff engagement and empowerment. Communications were strengthened and feedback was regularly sought from staff and stakeholders. This will continue (and be refined as needed) into future years.

The Trust is now well placed to develop and grow the delivery of our Strategy with a sustainable approach and positive culture.

Against this background of stability and growth, and reflecting our priorities under the Strategy, our work in the year ending 31 March 2024 is focusing on achieving further funding to expand our engagement reach in Leicester communities, and in the wider countryside, working towards expansion of our Soar Valley Living Landscape, and identifying more areas in the two counties where land management which benefits nature can be achieved.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Trust and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the Trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the Trust and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

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

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

Auditors

In accordance with the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing the re-appointment of PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited as Auditor will be put to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Mrs E A Tomlinson
(Chair of Trustees)

Date: 9 Feb 2023

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent auditors' report to the Members of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Consolidated statement of financial activities, the Consolidated balance sheet, the Trust balance sheet, the Consolidated statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent auditors' report to the Members of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited
(continued)

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company 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 in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent auditors' report to the Members of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited
(continued)

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

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

We identified that the principal risk of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations related to:

- management bias in respect of accounting estimates and judgements made;
- management override of control;
- posting of unusual journals or transactions.

We focussed on those areas that could give rise to a material misstatement in the Company financial statements. Our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims, including instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance where available;
- reviewing legal expenditure in the year to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

It is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Independent auditors' report to the Members of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited
(continued)**

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, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. 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 Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited

Sarah Flear (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited

Statutory Auditors

2 Lace Market Square

Nottingham

NG1 1PB

Date: 13/10/23.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	104,900	1,043,213	1,148,113	1,031,618
Charitable activities	5	623,175	106,958	730,133	804,178
Other trading activities	6	-	76,894	76,894	27,253
Investments	7	-	62,980	62,980	40,792
Total income		728,075	1,290,045	2,018,120	1,903,841
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:	8				
Cost of generating members subscriptions/voluntary income		-	305,802	305,802	346,395
Cost of goods sold and other costs		-	39,724	39,724	17,167
Investment management fees		-	3,702	3,702	3,213
Charitable activities	9	837,163	853,175	1,690,338	1,772,801
Total expenditure		837,163	1,202,403	2,039,566	2,139,576
Net (expenditure)/income before net (losses)/gains on investments		(109,088)	87,642	(21,446)	(235,735)
Net (losses)/gains on investments	17	-	(15,264)	(15,264)	2,464
Net (expenditure)/income before taxation		(109,088)	72,378	(36,710)	(233,271)
Taxation	14	-	(3,573)	(3,573)	(1,732)
Net (expenditure)/income after taxation		(109,088)	68,805	(40,283)	(235,003)
Transfers between funds	23	(74,677)	74,677	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		(183,765)	143,482	(40,283)	(235,003)
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Losses on revaluation of fixed assets	15	-	(6,710)	(6,710)	(4,115)
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes	29	-	(74,420)	(74,420)	143,733
Derecognition of defined benefit pension asset	29	-	51,642	51,642	(98,011)
Net movement in funds		(183,765)	113,994	(69,771)	(193,396)

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
(continued)

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Restricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023	<i>Total funds 2022</i>
Note	£	£	£	£
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	2,598,250	2,871,128	5,469,378	5,662,774
Net movement in funds	(183,765)	113,994	(69,771)	(193,396)
Total funds carried forward	2,414,485	2,985,122	5,399,607	5,469,378

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

The notes on pages 31 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Registered number: 00561833

Consolidated balance sheet

As at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	3,400,389	3,516,852
Investments	17	198,331	213,364
Investment property	16	620,000	620,000
		<u>4,218,720</u>	<u>4,350,216</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	18	5,764	5,492
Debtors	19	317,792	283,993
Cash at bank and in hand		1,190,253	1,211,427
		<u>1,513,809</u>	<u>1,500,912</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(299,509)	(340,037)
Net current assets		<u>1,214,300</u>	<u>1,160,875</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>5,433,020</u>	<u>5,511,091</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	21	(33,413)	(41,713)
Total net assets		<u><u>5,399,607</u></u>	<u><u>5,469,378</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	23	2,414,485	2,598,250
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	23	2,611,927	2,487,794
Accumulated charitable funds	23	318,913	274,614
		<u>2,930,840</u>	<u>2,762,408</u>
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	23	2,930,840	2,762,408
Pension reserve	23	54,282	108,720
		<u>2,985,122</u>	<u>2,871,128</u>
Total unrestricted funds	23	<u>2,985,122</u>	<u>2,871,128</u>
Total funds		<u><u>5,399,607</u></u>	<u><u>5,469,378</u></u>

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Registered number: 00561833

Consolidated balance sheet (continued)

As at 31 March 2023

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Mrs E A Tomlinson

(Chair of Trustees)

Date: 9th Oct 2023

The notes on pages 31 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Registered number: 00561833

**Trust balance sheet
As at 31 March 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	3,344,776	3,454,524
Investments	17	198,431	213,464
Investment property	16	620,000	620,000
		<u>4,163,207</u>	<u>4,287,988</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	19	356,311	321,291
Cash at bank and in hand		1,067,419	1,076,950
		<u>1,423,730</u>	<u>1,398,241</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(161,970)	(139,829)
Net current assets		<u>1,261,760</u>	<u>1,258,412</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>5,424,967</u>	<u>5,546,400</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	21	(33,413)	(41,713)
Total net assets		<u><u>5,391,554</u></u>	<u><u>5,504,687</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	23	2,414,487	2,598,251
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	23	2,611,927	2,487,794
Pension fund		54,282	108,720
	23	<u></u>	<u></u>
Designated funds	23	2,666,209	2,596,514
Unrestricted funds	23	310,858	309,922
		<u></u>	<u></u>
Total unrestricted funds	23	<u>2,977,067</u>	<u>2,906,436</u>
Total funds		<u><u>5,391,554</u></u>	<u><u>5,504,687</u></u>

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Registered number: 00561833

Trust balance sheet (continued)

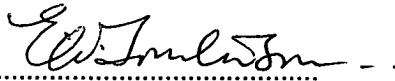
As at 31 March 2023

The Trust's net movement in funds for the year was £(113,128) (2022 - £(146,067)).

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs E A Tomlinson

(Chair of Trustees)

Date: 9th Oct 2023.

The notes on pages 31 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	(75,653)	(349,647)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	62,980	40,792
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	7,200	11,450
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(15,932)	(178,782)
Proceeds from sale of investments	61,688	20,728
Purchase of investments	(61,457)	(20,780)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	54,479	(126,592)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(21,174)	(476,239)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,211,427	1,687,666
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,190,253	1,211,427

The notes on pages 31 to 63 form part of these financial statements

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. General information

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited is an incorporated charity and a registered charity in England and Wales, United Kingdom. The company and charity registration numbers and the address of the registered office can be found in the Reference and Administrative Details page of these financial statements.

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and as such has no issued share capital.

The Trust works for the protection and enhancement of wildlife and wild places in Leicestershire and Rutland. The Trust is dedicated to securing a positive future for wildlife as well as improving people's understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of wildlife.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

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

Group financial statements

These financial statements comprise the results of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited and its subsidiary, consolidated on a line-by-line basis. All the financial statements are made up to 31 March 2023.

All intra-group transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions with the subsidiary are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.

The Trust's Statement of Financial Activities

As permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, the Trust has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities as it prepared group accounts and the Trust's individual balance sheet shows the Trust's net movement of funds in the financial year.

In accordance with FRS 102, the Trust has taken advantage of the exemptions from the following disclosure requirements;

Section 7 'Statement of Cash Flows' - Presentation of a Statement of Cash Flow and related notes and disclosures for the Trust.

Section 33 'Related Party Disclosures' - Compensation for key management personnel.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity, and are rounded to the nearest £1.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.2 Going concern

The Group continues to implement its new Strategy to 2030: Bringing Nature Back in a sustainable way. The implementation of the strategy will follow a timetable which keeps the need for financial resilience firmly in mind.

The Trust continues to have healthy cash balances and the Trustees have reviewed the Group's future plans for the next two financial years, detailed in prudent and conservative forecasts of activity and related cash-flow impacts. Based on this and available cash reserves, the Trustees consider the Trust has adequate funds and sufficient cashflows to meet its liabilities and those of its subsidiary undertaking, as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements. The Trustees also consider that the Trust's anticipated future objectives can be met. The financial statements have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

2.3 Income

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

- Voluntary income, including donations, member subscriptions and legacies, are recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt, and the amount can be measured reliably. Donations of land or other assets are included at fair value at date of receipt.
- Any legacy entitlement is taken as the earlier of: the date on which the Trust is aware that probate has been granted; the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made; or a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the Trust has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where a legacy has been notified to the Trust or the Trust is aware of the granting of probate, but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then that legacy is treated as a contingent asset, and disclosed if material.
- Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.
- Rental income on assets leased under operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term.
- Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.
- Income direct from charitable activities is recognised when the Trust is legally entitled to income and the amount can be measured reliably.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under charitable activity rather than the type of expense, in order to provide useful information to users of the financial statements.

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

Expenditure on charitable activities comprise both direct expenditure, including direct staff costs attributable to the activity, and support costs. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Support and governance costs which cannot be directly attributed to a specific activity have been split across the cost categories on the same percentage as staff costs incurred.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Voluntary help

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), no value has been put on the help received by the Trust during the year from volunteers of the Trust. Additional information about the contribution made by volunteers is given in the Report of the Council.

2.6 Taxation

The Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

The non-charitable subsidiary will be subject to Corporation Tax on any profits not gift aided to the charitable parent.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. All other expenditure is charged to the SOFA in the year incurred.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their residual value, over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold buildings	- 50 years
Leasehold buildings	- 25 years
Heritage assets	- Not depreciated
Motor vehicles	- 5 years
Fixtures and fittings	- 5 years
Computer equipment	- 5 years
Tools and equipment	- 5 years

Heritage assets represent the nature reserves portfolio of the Trust and are capitalised at cost at the date of addition. Heritage assets are not depreciated as the figure relates to land making up the Trust's nature reserves. Where buildings occur on those reserves, the Trustees consider the amount insignificant and thus any depreciation would be immaterial.

The Trust maintains its heritage assets in accordance with its charitable objects and its stated Development Strategy.

The livestock is valued at its existing use value by the Trustees. Revaluations are shown as other recognised gains and losses within the SOFA. Livestock is used in the management of the nature reserves and not as a commercial venture.

Impairment

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts, being the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value-in-use, are recognised as impairment losses. Impairments of revalued assets are treated as a revaluation loss. All other impairment losses are recognised in the SOFA.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Reversals of impairment losses are recognised in the SOFA or, for revalued assets, as a revaluation gain. On reversal of an impairment loss, the depreciation is adjusted to allocate the assets revised carrying amount (less any residual value) over its remaining useful life.

2.8 Investments

Listed investments are stated at fair value. Both realised and unrealised gains and losses are shown in the SOFA, together with net gains and losses arising from revaluations and disposals throughout the year. The fair value of an investment quoted on a recognised stock exchange is deemed to be the quotation from that stock exchange.

Investment properties are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at fair value at each balance sheet date. Changes in fair value are recognised in the SOFA.

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

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.9 Stocks

Stocks consists of shop stock purchased for resale. Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

At each reporting date, the Trustees assess whether stocks are impaired or if any impairment loss recognised in prior periods has reversed. Any excess of the carrying amount of stock over its estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell is recognised as an impairment loss in the SOFA.

2.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors (including accrued income) which are receivable within one year are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Short-term debtors are subsequently measured at amortised cost, being the transaction price less any amounts settled and any impairment losses.

2.11 Cash at bank and in hand

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

2.12 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

2.13 Financial instruments

The Group only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of investments in share and property. The investments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at fair value through the SOFA.

2.14 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Consolidated statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.15 Pensions

Current Trust personnel participate in a defined contribution stakeholder scheme. Some past Trust personnel participated in a defined benefit scheme that has been closed to new members and further accrual of pension.

Defined contribution scheme

The pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Group to the fund in respect of the year. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Trust in an independently administered fund. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions paid are shown either as accruals of prepayments.

Defined benefit scheme

The Trust participates in The Wildlife Trust Pension Scheme, which is a multi-employer pension scheme which provides benefits to its members.

Typically defined benefit plans define an amount of pension benefit that an employee will receive on retirement, usually dependent on one or more factors such as age, years of service and compensation.

The liability recognised on the balance sheet in respect of defined benefit pension plans is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period less the fair value of plan assets. The defined benefit obligation is calculated annually by independent actuaries using the projected unit credit method. The present value of the defined benefit obligation is determined by discounting the estimated future cash outflows using interest rates of high-quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid, and that have terms of maturity approximating to the terms of the related pension obligation.

Re-measurement gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are charged to other gains and losses in the period in which they arise.

The amount charged or credit to interest expenses is a net interest amount calculated by applying the liability discount rate to the net defined benefit liability or asset.

2.16 Fund accounting

Accumulated charitable funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

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

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

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023**

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Pension scheme

The present value of the defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in Note 29, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a rollforward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed on 1 April 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pension liability at 31 March 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgment:

The Trustees do not consider that there is any area of critical judgment which would have a significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations and similar income	99,900	228,007	327,907	255,372
Legacies	5,000	168,688	173,688	165,033
Members subscriptions including gift aid	-	646,518	646,518	611,213
	<u>104,900</u>	<u>1,043,213</u>	<u>1,148,113</u>	<u>1,031,618</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>187,488</u>	<u>844,130</u>	<u>1,031,618</u>	

5. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Consultancy fees	516,952	-	516,952	424,669
Grants	106,023	106,958	212,981	372,020
Livestock	200	-	200	7,489
	<u>623,175</u>	<u>106,958</u>	<u>730,133</u>	<u>804,178</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>668,088</u>	<u>136,090</u>	<u>804,178</u>	

Grants

	2023 £
Hanson Cement	2,500
DEFRA Single Farm Payment	59,366
DEFRA Countryside payment	42,432
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (PPL)	98,183
Trent Rivers Trust	10,000
Wild Flower Society	500
	<u>212,981</u>

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Shop sales	73,163	73,163	27,253
Other income	3,731	3,731	-
	<u>76,894</u>	<u>76,894</u>	<u>27,253</u>

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from investment properties	41,631	41,631	36,251
Income from listed investments	5,282	5,282	3,894
Income from cash investments	15,497	15,497	647
Profit on sale of fixed assets	570	570	-
	<u>62,980</u>	<u>62,980</u>	<u>40,792</u>

8. Analysis of expenditure on raising funds

	Generating Funds £	Retail Operations £	Investment mgt costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Shop Expenditure	-	39,724	-	39,724	17,167
Membership Commission	158,254	-	-	158,254	184,206
Trust Support Costs	53,173	-	-	53,173	58,808
Salary Costs	94,375	-	-	94,375	103,381
Stockbroker fees	-	-	1,479	1,479	1,388
Rental Collection	-	-	2,223	2,223	1,825
	<u>305,802</u>	<u>39,724</u>	<u>3,702</u>	<u>349,228</u>	<u>366,775</u>

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Wildlife Havens £	Inspiring People £	Wildlife Champions £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Nature Reserve	91,761	53,799	-	145,560	269,185
Consultancy Work	-	-	143,407	143,407	118,097
British Birdwatching Fair	-	-	-	-	9,053
Subsidiary support costs	-	-	16,906	16,906	16,065
Trust Support Costs	175,733	180,822	59,714	416,270	377,019
Salary Costs	448,454	371,703	148,039	968,196	983,382
	715,948	606,324	368,066	1,690,338	1,772,801

10. Analysis of governance and support costs

	Wildlife Havens £	Inspiring People £	Wildlife Champions £	Generating Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Trust Support costs						
Office Costs	106,034	109,105	36,031	32,084	283,254	288,100
RSWT Levy	10,302	10,600	3,501	3,117	27,520	29,430
Depreciation	29,571	30,427	10,048	8,948	78,994	86,291
Loss on disposal	6,633	6,825	2,254	2,007	17,718	62
Pension fund	11,852	12,195	4,027	3,586	31,660	11,476
Subsidiary support costs						
Office Costs			24,016		24,016	26,923
Depreciation			16,723		16,723	24,703
P/L on disposal			(7,110)		(7,110)	(10,858)
Amortisation of capital grant			(16,723)		(16,723)	(24,703)
Governance costs	11,341	11,670	3,854	3,432	30,297	20,468
	175,733	180,823	76,620	53,173	486,349	451,892

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

11. Auditors' remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to the Trust's auditor for the audit of the Trust's annual accounts	18,100	16,500
Fees payable to the Trust's auditor in respect of:		
Audit of subsidiary company	6,915	6,400
Tax compliance service	865	800
	<u>25,880</u>	<u>23,700</u>

12. Staff costs

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Trust 2023 £	Trust 2022 £
Wages and salaries	750,265	668,212	750,265	668,212
Social security costs	67,996	79,004	49,692	57,057
Pension contributions	44,940	56,743	33,234	40,891
	<u>863,201</u>	<u>803,959</u>	<u>833,191</u>	<u>766,160</u>

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

	Group 2023 No.	Group 2022 No.	Trust 2023 No.	Trust 2022 No.
Management and Administration	13	15	10	12
Charitable Activities	20	26	15	18
	<u>33</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>

The average number of employees in the Group during the year was 28 (2022: 34), on a full-time equivalent basis.

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

13. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The Trustees received no remuneration and were not reimbursed for any of their expenses in the year.

The key management personnel of the Group during the year comprised the Trustees and the senior staff, namely the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Conservation and Head of Engagement. The senior staff are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Group. The total of key management personnel benefits for the year was £175,605 (2022: £158,261).

14. Taxation

	2023	2022
	£	£
Corporation tax		
Current tax on net (expenditure)/income for the year	3,573	-
Adjustments in respect of previous periods	-	1,732
Taxation on net (expenditure)/income	3,573	1,732

As noted in the accounting policies, the Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Factors that may affect future tax charges

From 1 April 2023, the rate of corporation tax in the United Kingdom has increased from 19% to 25%. Companies with profits of £50k or less will continue to be taxed at 19%, which is a new small profits rate. Where taxable profits are between £50k and £250k, the higher 25% rate will apply but with a marginal relief applying as profits increase.

As the 25% rate was enacted in May 2021, this rate has been reflected in the calculation of deferred tax.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Land and buildings £	Heritage assets £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and computers £	Tools and equipment £	Livestock £	Total £
Cost or valuation							
At 1 April 2022	1,410,015	2,279,944	276,410	156,085	89,857	36,400	4,248,711
Additions	-	-	-	9,498	5,054	1,380	15,932
Disposals	-	(16,229)	(17,884)	(31,163)	(43,205)	(13,740)	(122,221)
Transfers between classes	87,655	(87,655)	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	(6,710)	(6,710)
At 31 March 2023	1,497,670	2,176,060	258,526	134,420	51,706	17,330	4,135,712
Depreciation							
At 1 April 2022	350,328	-	253,009	70,488	58,034	-	731,859
Charge for the year	49,730	-	7,872	24,659	13,456	-	95,717
On disposals	-	-	(17,884)	(31,165)	(43,204)	-	(92,253)
At 31 March 2023	400,058	-	242,997	63,982	28,286	-	735,323
Net book value							
At 31 March 2023	1,097,612	2,176,060	15,529	70,438	23,420	17,330	3,400,389
At 31 March 2022	1,059,687	2,279,944	23,401	85,597	31,823	36,400	3,516,852

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Trust

	Land and buildings £	Heritage assets £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and computers £	Tools and equipment £	Livestock £	Total £
Cost or valuation							
At 1 April 2022	1,410,015	2,279,944	110,217	92,337	87,617	29,500	4,009,630
Additions	-	-	-	-	5,054	780	5,834
Disposals	-	(16,229)	(6,200)	(10,235)	(38,580)	(13,650)	(84,894)
Transfers between classes	87,655	(87,655)	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	(6,710)	(6,710)
At 31 March 2023	1,497,670	2,176,060	104,017	82,102	54,091	9,920	3,923,860
Depreciation							
At 1 April 2022	350,328	-	110,217	37,642	56,919	-	555,106
Charge for the year	49,730	-	-	16,986	12,278	-	78,994
On disposals	-	-	(6,200)	(10,237)	(38,579)	-	(55,016)
At 31 March 2023	400,058	-	104,017	44,391	30,618	-	579,084
Net book value							
At 31 March 2023	1,097,612	2,176,060	-	37,711	23,473	9,920	3,344,776
At 31 March 2022	1,059,687	2,279,944	-	54,695	30,698	29,500	3,454,524

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023**

Livestock is valued at their fair value at 31 March 2023 by the Trustees.

Included within land and buildings above is freehold land and buildings with a net book value at 31 March 2023 of £278,849 (2022: £228,605) and long leasehold buildings with a net book value at 31 March 2023 of £818,760 (2022: £831,082).

Heritage assets

Heritage assets represent the Trust's nature reserves, and are maintained in accordance with the Trust's charitable objects and stated development strategy, which include public access and educational purposes. The Trust continually seek to expand its portfolio of nature reserves, in line with the above and following its acquisition policy. The nature reserves are an essential part of the Trust's work and consequently it is not the Trust's policy to dispose of any.

Five year summary of heritage asset transactions:

Group and Trust

	£
2022-23	-
2021-22	102,133
2020-21	245,225
2019-20	-
2018-19	18,000

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

16. Investment property

Group and Trust

The Group's and Trust's investment properties comprise buildings and related land at or near Charnwood Lodge Nature Reserve, and part of The Old Mill, 9 Soar Lane, Leicester which is leased to a third party.

	Investment properties £
Valuation	
At 1 April 2022	620,000
At 31 March 2023	<u>620,000</u>

The buildings and related land at or near Charnwood Lodge Nature Reserve were revalued at £520,000 by Mather Jamie, Chartered Surveyors on the 31 March 2021.

The part of the property at The Old Mill, Soar Lane, Leicester which is leased out and treated as an investment property was revalued at a fair value of £100,000 by Mather Jamie, Chartered Surveyors, as at 31 March 2016. The Trustees are of the opinion that the fair value has not materially changed at the balance sheet date.

The historical cost of the investment properties is £181,183 (2022: £181,183).

The Revaluation Reserve of £478,030 (2022: £478,030) included in Designated Funds within the Balance Sheet arises from the year-end revaluations of investment properties and investments, less their historical costs.

17. Fixed asset investments

Group	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2022	213,364
Additions	61,688
Disposals	(61,457)
Revaluations	(15,264)
At 31 March 2023	<u>198,331</u>

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

17. Fixed asset investments (continued)

Trust	Listed investments £	Investment in trading subsidiary £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2022	213,364	100	213,464
Additions	61,688	-	61,688
Disposals	(61,457)	-	(61,457)
Revaluations	(15,264)	-	(15,264)
At 31 March 2023	198,331	100	198,431

The historical cost of shares held at 31 March 2023 is £177,714 (2022: £173,635).

The following investments each exceed 5% of the total value of share investments:

	%
JP MORGAN FUND ICVC JPM US EQUITY INCOME C2	11.31%
NINETY ONE FUNDS SERIES III GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT K	6.89%
IMPAX FUNDS (IRE) ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETS(IRE)	6.87%
TB EVENLODE INVESTMENT FUNDS ICVC GLOBAL INCOME	6.39%
FINSBURY GROWTH & INCOME TRUST ORD GBP0.25	5.00%

Other investments

The Trust, along with six other Wildlife Trusts, has established Wildlife Fundraising (Central) Limited (company number 08372218), a company limited by guarantee. This company undertakes membership recruitment for the seven Wildlife Trusts involved. As a member of the company, the Trust's liabilities are limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Investment in trading subsidiary

The investment in Leicestershire Wildlife (Sales) Limited (company number 02347573), a company incorporated in the UK, represents a 100% holding of the trading subsidiary's share capital. The company's registered office is at The Old Mill, 9 Soar Lane, Leicester, LE3 5DE. Leicestershire Wildlife (Sales) Limited undertakes nature conservation contracts and wildlife consultancy, together with its retailing operations. The trading company donates its taxable profit to the Trust. A summary of its trading results is shown below:

	2023 £	2022 £
Profit and loss account		
Turnover	475,498	421,896
Expenditure	(429,416)	(480,985)
Other income	-	47,761
Interest receivable	848	30
Fair value movements	-	3,500
Profit/(loss) before taxation	46,930	(7,798)
Taxation	(3,573)	(1,732)
Profit/(loss) for the year	43,357	(9,530)

And the below shows a summary of its balance sheet position as at 31 March 2023:

	2023 £	2022 £
Balance sheet		
Fixed and current assets	194,146	238,655
Current liabilities	(185,998)	(273,864)
Total net liabilities	8,148	(35,209)
Called up share capital	100	100
Profit and loss reserves	8,048	(35,309)
Total equity	8,148	(35,209)

18. Stocks

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £
Shop stock	5,764	5,492

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023**

19. Debtors

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Trust 2023 £	Trust 2022 £
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	108,024	69,084	105,395	35,744
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	48,969	73,656
Other debtors	7,816	3,018	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	151,324	144,631	151,319	144,631
Tax recoverable on gift aid	50,628	67,260	50,628	67,260
	<u>317,792</u>	<u>283,993</u>	<u>356,311</u>	<u>321,291</u>

20. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Trust 2023 £	Trust 2022 £
Trade creditors	130,341	98,442	105,150	74,199
Corporation tax	3,573	-	-	-
Other taxation and social security	14,744	18,274	10,807	14,038
Other creditors	9,511	18,548	9,511	18,548
Accruals and deferred income	141,340	204,773	36,502	33,044
	<u>299,509</u>	<u>340,037</u>	<u>161,970</u>	<u>139,829</u>

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Trust 2023 £	Trust 2022 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	99,778	153,396	-	1,150
Resources deferred during the year	47,497	42,728	400	-
Amounts released from previous periods	(99,778)	(96,346)	-	(1,150)
	<u>47,497</u>	<u>99,778</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>-</u>

Deferred income relates to advances with respect to consultancy fees, grants paid in advance of entitlement and Osprey cruise bookings for future years.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

21. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2023 £	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	Trust 2023 £	<i>Trust 2022 £</i>
Other loans	33,413	<i>41,713</i>	33,413	<i>41,713</i>

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

	Group 2023 £	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	Trust 2023 £	<i>Trust 2022 £</i>
Payable or repayable by instalments	-	<i>8,513</i>	-	<i>8,513</i>

Other loans relate to a loan from the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts. The loan is interest free and is repayable in annual instalments, with the final payment due in September 2027.

22. Financial instruments

	Group 2023 £	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	Trust 2023 £	<i>Trust 2022 £</i>
Financial assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	1,388,584	<i>1,424,791</i>	1,265,750	<i>1,290,314</i>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise bank and cash in hand and listed investments.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

23. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Taxation £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds							
Designated funds							
Heritage assets and other fixed assets	1,243,394	-	(19,511)	-	112,904	-	1,336,787
Trust development fund	1,244,400	47,483	(1,479)	-	-	(15,264)	1,275,140
	<u>2,487,794</u>	<u>47,483</u>	<u>(20,990)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,904</u>	<u>(15,264)</u>	<u>2,611,927</u>
Accumulated charitable fund	274,614	1,242,562	(1,149,753)	(3,573)	(38,227)	(6,710)	318,913
Pension costs fund	108,720	-	(31,660)	-	-	(22,778)	54,282
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>2,871,128</u>	<u>1,290,045</u>	<u>(1,202,403)</u>	<u>(3,573)</u>	<u>74,677</u>	<u>(44,752)</u>	<u>2,985,122</u>
Restricted funds							
Appeals - Meadows	14,694	-	-	-	-	-	14,694
CFRP NF	-	56,737	(56,737)	-	-	-	-
Charnwood Forest Living Landscapes	41,287	68,829	(40,381)	-	27,899	-	97,634
Charnwood Woodland & Meadow Work	28,305	-	(5,137)	-	16,187	-	39,355
Holwell - David Cock Foundation	53,000	-	-	-	-	-	53,000
Education & Forest School - Postcode Lottery	108,478	62,460	(102,797)	-	(10,291)	-	57,850

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

23. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - current year (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Taxation £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Green Influencers Scheme	17,433	163	(14,908)	-	(2,688)	-	-
Grow Wild	24,522	-	-	-	(24,522)	-	-
Soar Valley Meadows	22,239	10,000	(24,577)	-	-	-	7,662
NE Seedcorn Fund for LNRS	5,893	-	(5,893)	-	-	-	-
Rutland Water Nature Reserve	65,242	32,769	(36,155)	-	(4,233)	-	57,623
Rutland Osprey Project	12,235	7,835	(4,395)	-	-	-	15,675
Livestock	10,995	260	432	-	-	-	11,687
Wider Countryside	26,352	-	(818)	-	(25,534)	-	-
Other restricted funds	81,344	90,418	(68,950)	-	(51,495)	-	51,317
Land held with restricted funds	1,402,647	-	-	-	-	-	1,402,647
Fixed assets held with restricted funds	683,584	-	(78,243)	-	-	-	605,341
Anglian Water - Leicestershire Wildlife Sales Limited	-	398,604	(398,604)	-	-	-	-
	2,598,250	728,075	(837,163)	-	(74,677)	-	2,414,485
Total of funds	5,469,378	2,018,120	(2,039,566)	(3,573)	-	(44,752)	5,399,607

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

23. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Taxation £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds							
Designated funds							
Heritage assets and other fixed assets	1,261,065	-	(17,874)	-	203	-	1,243,394
Trust development fund	1,374,953	40,145	(173,162)	-	-	2,464	1,244,400
Pension costs fund	120,196	-	(11,476)	-	-	-	108,720
	<u>2,756,214</u>	<u>40,145</u>	<u>(202,512)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>2,464</u>	<u>2,596,514</u>
General funds							
Accumulated charitable fund	269,563	1,008,120	(1,047,268)	(1,732)	4,324	41,607	274,614
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>3,025,777</u>	<u>1,048,265</u>	<u>(1,249,780)</u>	<u>(1,732)</u>	<u>4,527</u>	<u>44,071</u>	<u>2,871,128</u>
Restricted funds							
Appeals - Meadows	112,985	4,594	(2,618)	-	(100,267)	-	14,694
CFRP NF	-	30,027	(30,027)	-	-	-	-
Charnwood Forest Living Landscapes	8,924	58,834	(24,471)	-	(2,000)	-	41,287
Charnwood Woodland & Meadow Work	27,130	-	(2,616)	-	3,791	-	28,305
Holwell - David Cock Foundation	53,000	-	-	-	-	-	53,000

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

23. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Taxation £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Education & Forest School - Postcode Lottery	106,375	86,756	(84,676)	-	23	-	108,478
Green Influencers Scheme	15,857	18,059	(16,483)	-	-	-	17,433
Grow Wild	11,123	125,215	(111,816)	-	-	-	24,522
Soar Valley Meadows	25,165	-	(926)	-	(2,000)	-	22,239
NE Seedcorn Fund for LNRS	-	18,000	(12,107)	-	-	-	5,893
Rutland Water Nature Reserve	67,414	21,215	(21,843)	-	(1,544)	-	65,242
Rutland Osprey Project	10,251	7,202	(7,484)	-	2,266	-	12,235
Livestock	11,195	7,425	(7,625)	-	-	-	10,995
Wider Countryside	54,988	-	(28,636)	-	-	-	26,352
Other restricted funds	122,402	35,845	(39,189)	-	(37,714)	-	81,344
Land held with restricted funds	1,302,192	-	(1,678)	-	102,133	-	1,402,647
Fixed assets held with restricted funds	707,996	-	(55,197)	-	30,785	-	683,584
Anglian Water - Leicestershire Wildlife Sales Limited	-	442,404	(442,404)	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,636,997</u>	<u>855,576</u>	<u>(889,796)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,527)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,598,250</u>
Total of funds	<u>5,662,774</u>	<u>1,903,841</u>	<u>(2,139,576)</u>	<u>(1,732)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,071</u>	<u>5,469,378</u>

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

23. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted funds:

The Trust holds the following restricted funds:

- Appeals - Meadows: Fundraising to purchase at-risk wildflower meadows.
- CFRP NF: Charnwood Forest Regional Park National Forest funding to deliver an annual programme of grassland, recording and survey management in the Charnwood Forest.
- Charnwood Forest Living Landscape Project: To work with local people, farmers and landowners to restore nature across extensive areas of Charnwood Forest. This project has been funded by Aggregate Industries.
- Charnwood Woodland & Meadows Work: Funds for woodland and meadows nature reserve work in Charnwood.
- Holwell - David Cock Foundation: Funding to support habitat improvements and conservation work at Holwell Nature Reserve.
- Education and Forest Schools: Funds to support Forest School activities and initiatives. Peoples Postcode Lottery has been the main funder of this project.
- Green Influencers Scheme: Ernest Cook Foundation-funded engagement and co-design with young people aged 10 to 14 to undertake projects to improve their environment and take action.
- Grow Wild: Wildlife gardening service supporting schools, community groups and other not-for-profit organisations to make the most of their outdoor spaces for both people and wildlife.
- Soar Valley Meadows: Funds for habitat creation, restoration and management work at Cossington, Mountsorrel and Rothley Marshes nature reserve.
- NE Seedcorn Fund for LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy): Natural England funded survey work in Leicestershire and Rutland to develop a vision for biodiversity.
- Rutland Osprey Project: Funds to establish and maintain a breeding population of Ospreys in and around Rutland Water Nature Reserve.
- Rutland Water Nature Reserve: Funds for nature conservation at Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

23. Statement of funds (continued)

- **Livestock:** Funds to support the work of the Trust's conservation grazing cattle.
- **Wider Countryside:** Funds to support nature conservation projects and initiatives in the wider countryside of Leicestershire and Rutland.
- **Other restricted funds:** Miscellaneous funds for various nature conservation work.

Expenditure on capital assets is included in fixed assets and depreciated over the life of the asset in accordance with the accounting policies. The depreciation is set off against the restricted funds which it is recognised in the accounts.

The transfers between funds are with respect to the movement between restricted funds and the allocation of staff costs and overheads permitted against certain restricted funds.

The following restricted funds are held within the Group only:

- **Anglian Water - Leicestershire Wildlife Sales Limited:** Management of Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

Unrestricted Funds

With the exception of the Accumulated Charitable Fund which holds all of the Group's unrestricted funds which have not been designated, the unrestricted funds represent financial reserves earmarked to meet specific aspects of the Group's objects.

Designated Funds

The designated funds, which are described in detail in the Report of the Council, have the following purposes:

Heritage assets and other fixed assets: This fund identifies assets comprising of nature reserves and other fixed assets.

Trust development fund: This fund comprises assets which may be used to provide financial resources towards projects furthering the Trust's charitable objects; or key operational requirements for the Trust's long-term development. This could include: land acquisition for nature reserves; land and/or property acquisition to allow the Trust to carry out its work effectively; maintenance and enhancement work on existing nature reserves; education projects; advocacy work and operational support.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

23. Statement of funds (continued)

At the year end, the balance on this fund was made up as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Investment properties	620,000	620,000
Investments	198,331	213,364
Other current assets	<u>456,809</u>	<u>411,036</u>
	<u>1,275,140</u>	<u>1,244,400</u>

Pension costs fund: To help provide against increases arising from periodic actuarial revaluations of the defined benefit section of the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme, in the Trust's overall liability towards eliminating the deficit on the scheme (see Note 29).

Transfer between funds

Where individual restricted funds have been used during the year for capital expenditure with a restricted purpose, this expenditure has been transferred into specific funds representing all such restricted land held and all such restricted fixed assets, as appropriate. The resulting balances on the individual restricted funds are thus a clearer reflection of the resources available to the Trust for expenditure within each fund.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

24. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,007,988	1,392,401	3,400,389
Fixed asset investments	-	198,331	198,331
Investment property	-	620,000	620,000
Current assets	453,594	1,060,215	1,513,809
Creditors due within one year	(47,097)	(252,412)	(299,509)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(33,413)	(33,413)
Total	2,414,485	2,985,122	5,399,607

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	2,086,231	1,430,621	3,516,852
Fixed asset investments	-	213,364	213,364
Investment property	-	620,000	620,000
Current assets	624,578	876,334	1,500,912
Creditors due within one year	(112,559)	(227,478)	(340,037)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(41,713)	(41,713)
Total	2,598,250	2,871,128	5,469,378

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

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

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(40,283)	(235,003)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	95,717	110,993
(Losses)/gains on investments	15,264	(2,464)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(62,980)	(40,792)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	10,608	(10,390)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	(272)	1,240
Increase in debtors	(33,799)	(105,400)
Decrease in creditors	(37,130)	(26,584)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(54,438)	(52,723)
Pension finance charges and administration costs	31,660	11,476
Net cash used in operating activities	(75,653)	(349,647)

26. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £
Cash in hand	1,190,253	1,211,427

27. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	Other non- cash changes £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,211,427	(21,174)	-	1,190,253
Debt due within 1 year	-	-	(8,300)	(8,300)
Debt due after 1 year	(41,713)	-	8,300	(33,413)
	1,169,714	(21,174)	-	1,148,540

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

28. Contingent liabilities

The Trust is a participating employer of the defined benefit section of The Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme, a multi-employer pension scheme, as described in Note 29. During the year ended 31 March 2022, the Trustees of the Trust were made aware of a potential issue relating to the defined benefit section of the Scheme. A detailed investigation is currently underway to establish the extent to which this could result in financial liability to the Trust and other participating employers. As it is not possible to reliably estimate the value of any potential liability, no provision has been made for this in the financial statements above the setting aside of a designated fund to cover increases arising from periodic actuarial revaluations of the defined benefit section of the Scheme (as described in Note 23).

29. Pension commitments

The Trust currently operates two schemes:

a) a Stakeholder defined contribution scheme operated by Standard Life and available to all stage. Pension contributions for the year were £44,940 (2021: £46,809); and

b) The Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme, which is described in detail below:

The Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme

The Trust, together with a number of other employers, participates in the defined benefit section of the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme (the Scheme). Capita Hartshead administers the Scheme and its assets, which are held separately from those of the Trust.

The liabilities set out in this note have been calculated based on the results of the Scheme Funding Assessment as at 1 April 2022, updated to 31 March 2023. The present value of the defined benefit obligation was measured using the projected unit credit method. The Employers have agreed a funding plan with the Trustees, whereby contributions are made into the Scheme in order to remove the funding deficit based on each Employer's share of the total Scheme liabilities, calculated by the Scheme Actuary as at the most recent Scheme Funding Assessment (currently, 1 April 2022). The disclosures set out below are based on calculations carried out as at 31 March 2022 by an independent qualified actuary.

The contributions payable by the Trust to the Scheme for the year was £54,438 (2022: £52,723).

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

	At 31 March 2023	At 31 March 2022
	%	%
Discount rate	4.68	2.65
Future salary increases (RPI)	3.42	3.65
Future pension increases	2.70	2.85
Post-retirement mortality	1.25	1.25

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023**

29. Pension commitments (continued)

	At 31 March 2023 Years	At 31 March 2022 Years
Mortality rates (in years)		
- for a male aged 65 now	22.5	22.4
- at 65 for a male aged 45 now	25.0	23.7
- for a female aged 65 now	23.8	24.9
- at 65 for a female aged 45 now	26.4	26.3

The Group's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 March 2023 £	At 31 March 2022 £
Equities	223,838	671,388
Bonds	484,981	412,813
Property	25,477	28,353
Cash & LDI's	175,612	21,548
Total fair value of assets	909,908	1,134,102

The actual return on scheme assets was a loss of £209,138 (2022: gain of £48,855).

The amounts recognised in the Consolidated statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	-	-
Net interest (income)/expense	(2,861)	1,284
Administrative expenses	34,251	10,192
Total amount recognised in the Consolidated statement of financial activities	31,390	11,476

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

29. Pension commitments (continued)

Movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligation were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Opening defined benefit obligation	1,036,090	1,162,601
Actuarial gains	(164,120)	(115,947)
Benefits paid	(69,492)	(43,108)
Administration costs	34,521	10,192
Interest cost	26,541	22,352
Closing defined benefit obligation	863,540	1,036,090

Movements in the fair value of the Group's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Opening fair value of scheme assets	1,036,090	1,075,632
Interest income	29,402	21,068
Actuarial (losses)/gains	(238,540)	27,786
Contributions by employer	54,438	52,723
Benefits paid	(69,492)	(43,108)
Derecognition of surplus	51,642	(98,011)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	863,540	1,036,090

The amounts included in the Balance Sheet arising from the Trust's obligations in respect of defined benefit plans are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Present value of defined benefit obligation	(863,540)	1,036,090
Fair value of plan assets	863,540	(1,036,090)
	-	-

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

30. Operating lease commitments

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

	Group 2023 £	<i>Group</i> <i>2022</i> £	Trust 2023 £	<i>Trust</i> <i>2022</i> £
Not later than 1 year	1,189	1,189	836	836
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	594	1,783	418	1,254
	<u>1,783</u>	<u>2,972</u>	<u>1,254</u>	<u>2,090</u>

Group and Trust as Lessor

At the year end, the Group and Trust had contracted with tenants, under non-cancellable operating leases, for the following future minimum lease payments:

	2023 £	2022 £
Less than one year	15,750	29,000
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	13,958
	<u>15,750</u>	<u>42,958</u>

31. Council of Trustees

The Trustees referred to in the information to the accounts constitute the directors of the company.

32. Related party transactions

During the year, the Trust recharged management charges and certain expenses to its trading subsidiary Leicestershire Wildlife (Sales) Limited amounting to £20,341 (2022: £68,199) and were recharged expenses of £2,224 (2022: £38,215) At the year end, the trust was owed £48,969 (2022: £73,656) from Leicestershire Wildlife (Sales) Limited.

During the year, the Trust was charged £144,414 (2022: £140,486) by WFCL for its recruitment services. Included within creditors at 31 March 2023 was an amount of £39,453 (2022: £18,968) owed to WFCL.

During the year, the Trust received donations totalling £111,648 (2022: £20,000) from trustees.