

Somerset Wildlife Trust

Annual report and accounts 2017-18



Contents

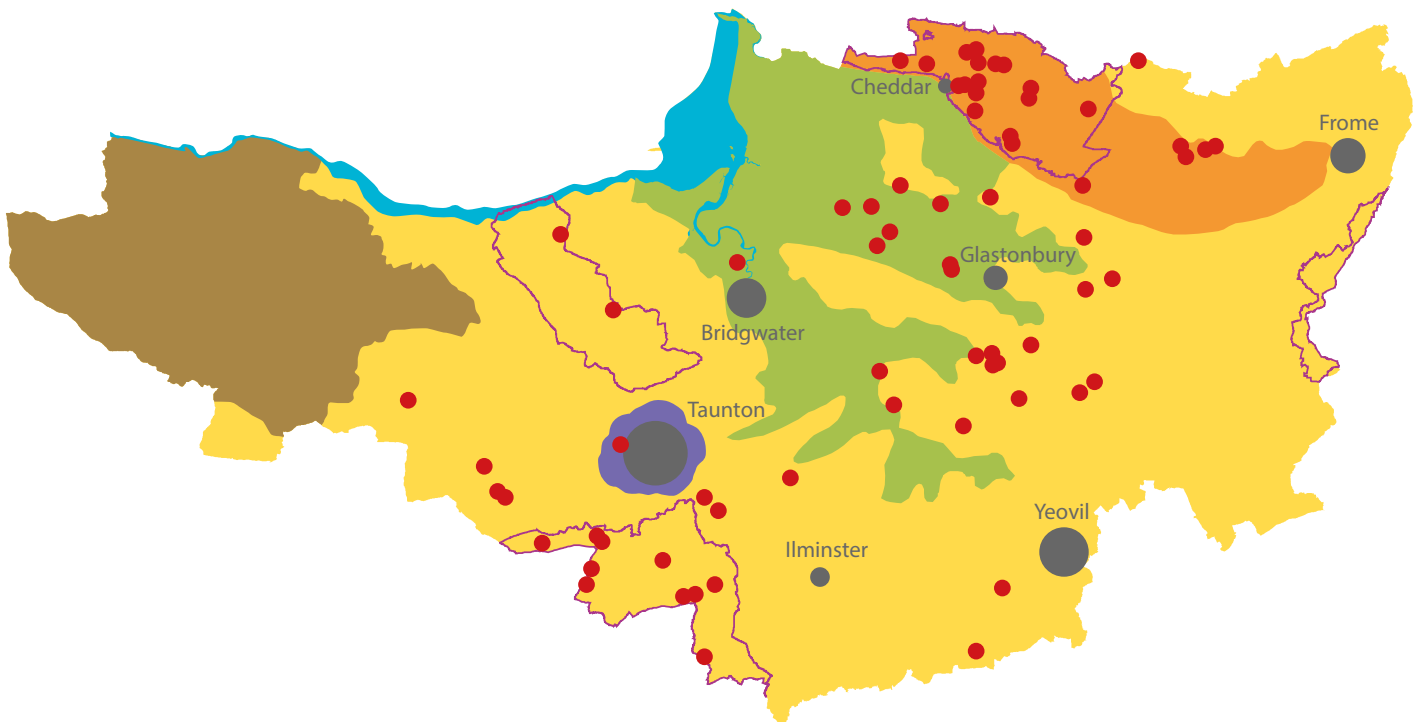
What we do	3
Message from the Chair and Chief Executive Officer	4
Strategic report	6
Conservation strategy and achievements	7
Engaging our supporters	11
Financial review	15
Looking ahead	19
Objectives and activities	21
Structure, governance and management	22
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	25
Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Somerset Wildlife Trust	26
Financial statements	28
Consolidated statement of financial activities	29
Consolidated and Trust balance sheets as at 31 March 2018	30
Consolidated statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2018	31
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018	32
Gifts and donations	46
Key people and advisers	47

What we do








Somerset is one of the most habitat-diverse and wildlife-rich counties in Britain. Somerset Wildlife Trust is an independent conservation charity working to ensure this remains the case.

We rely on the support of our members, donors and volunteers, as well as income from grant-making bodies and companies, including profits from our ecological consultancy, to look after Somerset's wildlife and wild places. This includes the nature reserves in our care and the creation of thriving 'living landscapes' across the Mendip Hills, the Levels and Moors, Taunton, and Somerset's coast.

We also work to influence Somerset's policy-making and planning decisions, which affect the county's wildlife and the wider environment to ensure nature is at the heart of decisions on our county's future. We believe access to wildlife and wild places is important for people of all ages to value wildlife and help protect it, and also to enhance the health and wellbeing of everyone who lives and works in our wonderful county.



Living Landscapes and nature reserves

-  Somerset's Living Coast
-  Levels and Moors Living Landscape
-  Mendip Hills Living Landscape
-  Taunton Living Landscape
-  Trust nature reserves
-  Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Exmoor National Park

Message from the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer

2017-18 was an important year for Somerset Wildlife Trust and for the conservation sector with the environment rising up the political agenda and, here in Somerset, support for our cause continuing to grow. Our work in partnership with other conservation organisations was recognised through national awards and, financially, we ended the year in a more sustainable position, thanks to measures introduced in 2016-17.

A year ago, Britain was adjusting to the idea of a future outside the European Union, a body which has very significantly influenced our county and our charity for 45 years. While much uncertainty remains, the Trust has welcomed the positive commitments in the Government's long awaited *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*, many of which are very relevant to nature's recovery here in Somerset. The creation of Nature Recovery Networks, and species recovery and reintroduction initiatives set out in the Plan, affirm the conservation strategy that has been followed by the Trust for several years. The Trust works at a landscape-scale, using ecological network mapping to inform our approaches, and in 2017-18 we continued to develop our advocacy work, including talking with key county decision-makers, to ensure that the very positive impact wildlife has on the economy of Somerset, and the health and wellbeing of its people, is at the forefront of their agendas.

That said, future policies and funding are far from certain and the Trust therefore continued to focus on both cost control and income generation. Reviewing the shape and operation of our landholding to enable the Trust to deliver better outcomes for wildlife and people across the county remains a key priority, and a detailed analysis began of our nature reserves to inform future decisions. This work will continue in 2018-19 and is vital for the charity to be impactful and financially sustainable. Future agri-environment funding now appears likely to reward those, like the Trust, who manage their land in wildlife-friendly ways, but it remains important that the Trust plans for an uncertain funding climate.

There was much to celebrate in the year. Two conservation projects won national awards, where the Trust had worked as part of a partnership to have greater impact than it could by working alone. The Hills to Levels project was a unique partnership of farming and conservation charities working together to reduce flood risk while encouraging nature and growing high-quality food. Set up in 2015 after the devastating flooding of 2014, Hills to Levels won the Duncan Huggett Award for the Environment at the Environment Agency's Flood & Coast Project Excellence Awards in March and then, in April 2018, the UK Rivers Award 2018.

Equally significant was the Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership receiving the 2017 National Lottery Award for Best Environment Project. Back in the late 1970s, the Trust was the first conservation body to acquire land in the Avalon Marshes and to persuade Somerset County Council to adopt wetland wildlife as the preferred use of worked peatland. 40 years on, this area is now an internationally important wetland and a mecca for wildlife and visitors. Juvenile Night Herons on our Westhay Moor National Nature Reserve in summer 2017 were a national first and received widespread attention, and just as exciting were Great White Egrets breeding there for the first time.

Inspiring the next generation is vital to ensure such successes continue. In 2017, thanks to funding from the Ninesquare Trust, a three-year education project, working both in the classroom and at our Catcott and Westhay Moor reserves, saw hundreds of local children learn about and experience the wildlife and habitats on their doorstep. This programme of

repeat engagement seeks also to embed environmental learning into everyday school life and will provide the Trust with evidence to plan an impactful future education programme.

Much of the work we do spans people and wildlife. It is people's action that will determine the future of our wonderful county. In Mendip, the Trust has facilitated the bringing together of 14 very different landowners across 2,727 hectares of important grassland habitats in a true landscape-scale collaboration. In particular, landowners are being encouraged to establish herbal leys, mixed-species pastures, which have multiple benefits for wildlife and farm businesses, through restoring and supporting a species-rich grassland network in Mendip.

Many thousands of people joined events and activities across the county, with more than previously being designed to improve health and wellbeing through being outdoors and engaging with nature. This will continue to be a theme of our work, including through working with groups with specific needs.

Once again, we thank our staff and volunteers for their continuing commitment to the Trust. In particular, we would like to thank our Trustees, including those who left Council during the year, for their guidance and commitment. We would also like to thank the many thousands of people who support the Trust financially and as advocates for our work. Our members, donors, volunteers, staff and supporters are all critical to our success and give Somerset Wildlife Trust a more powerful voice in the county to achieve our shared goals. It is only by working together that we can ensure that Somerset remains one of the most habitat-diverse and wildlife-rich counties in Britain, and such a special place to live and work.



Patricia Stainton
Chair



Simon Nash
Chief Executive Officer

Strategic report



The report set out on pages 6–25 is a strategic report and Directors' report as required by sections 414A and 415 of the Companies Act 2006 and has been prepared in accordance with Part 15 of this Act.

Conservation strategy and achievements

We champion Somerset's stunning and important natural environment, making the case for nature to the public and politicians. We protect wildlife and lead the recovery of the environment by example, including on our nature reserves.

Our key conservation strategic goals are to:

- **Rebuild Somerset's ecological networks**
- **Inspire people and communities to value and protect Somerset's nature**
- **Stand up for nature**

Rebuilding Somerset's ecological networks

Creating ecological networks that rebuild Somerset's natural environment, through our nature reserves and Living Landscape and Living Coast programmes, is one key component of our conservation strategy. Only through landscape-scale conservation and connectivity can we increase resilience to Somerset's current and future pressures.

Much of Britain today is a human-dominated landscape, where most original habitats have gone and natural ecosystems are now fragmented. While still the third most rural county in England, Somerset's diverse habitats are also under real pressure and some valuable areas have already been lost. It is therefore vital that the county's remaining nature-rich places are protected and connections made between them to provide bigger and joined up habitats for wildlife.

The Trust's nature reserves, many of which are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), are crucial safe havens for wildlife and managing and improving them is a key aspect of the Trust's work. The habitats they provide range from internationally important wetlands, to rare species-rich meadows, grasslands and ancient woodlands, most of which can be visited by all.

Through ongoing expert wetland habitat management at our Westhay Moor and Catcott nature reserves, 2017 saw two more members of the heron family breed at Westhay and Marsh Harriers also bred successfully. Recently fledged juveniles at Westhay were the first on record of UK-bred Night Herons and another first was the successful fledging of three Great White Egret chicks. Bittern numbers also continued to grow, with 11 booming males recorded in the spring 2018 survey across the Trust's reserves and 50 across the entire Avalon Marshes.

In the late 1970s we pioneered creating wetland habitats from peat workings and more recently the Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership has together continued to improve this area for wildlife and visitors. While this project has now ended, the Trust continues to work closely with Natural England, the RSPB and other partner organisations to maximise the area's potential for wildlife conservation.

Westhay Moor together with Natural England's Shapwick Heath reserve joined a nationwide, three-year, university-led project, WetlandLIFE, which aims to support the development of better wetland assessment tools for use by wetland site managers.

There was much good news in 2017 for wildlife on the Trust's reserves. 173,651 Large Blue eggs were counted, the highest number since the butterfly's reintroduction to Green Down in 1992. Successful habitat management is a key aspect of such wildlife successes. At the Trust's Netherclay Community Woodland, 224 Brown Hairstreak eggs were recorded in 2017, of which over 55 per cent were on the edge of the woodland ride, on Blackthorn coppiced in 2016. During winter 2017-18 local volunteers coppiced a further section to strengthen and enlarge this rare butterfly's preferred breeding habitat.

Mammals like bats also need specialist conditions. Thanks to successful fundraising in 2017, the Trust began work in three areas of



First record of UK-bred Night Heron



224

Brown Hairstreak Butterfly eggs at Netherclay



16
out of the UK's
17 breeding bats
are in Somerset

the county – Mendip Hills, Blackdown Hills and Taunton - to enrich and improve habitats for bats, and ensure they have suitable maternity roosts and hibernation sites. UK bat populations have declined considerably in the last century but thanks to the diversity of habitats still found, Somerset is home to 16 of the 17 species of UK breeding bats. Work was begun to enhance grassland and woodland habitats, including through hedge laying and scrub clearance. Fencing was also improved to enable cattle to graze, which will encourage Dung Beetle larvae, an important food source for rare bats like Greater Horseshoe. Repairs to the bat roost at Keeper's Cottage on our Harridge Woods reserve were also carried out, the latter thanks to grant funding from Viridor Credits.

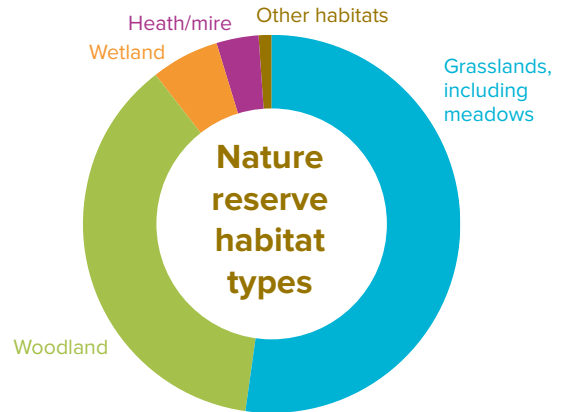
Somerset's coast is a key habitat for wintering waterfowl and waders. The detailed intertidal survey initiated by the Trust in autumn 2016 continued in the year and the species' data collected will form part of a national data set and Somerset's first ever map of coastal habitats. Somerset currently does not have a coastal equivalent of its terrestrial ecological network maps, and this project once complete will mean more joined up plans can be made to help the county's wildlife recover and remain.

Monitoring and recording the wildlife present on our reserves and elsewhere is vital, and in addition to surveys by the county's specialist groups and Trust staff and volunteers, Somerset Environmental Records Centre, which is hosted by the Trust, introduced a new online recording system to increase the speed, efficiency and volume of data collection. Drone footage was used for monitoring including to provide evidence of how channels had been opened up in the reedbed at Westhay Heath, essential for maintaining the favourable condition of this SSSI.



Rare sea slug
found in
Somerset's first
intertidal survey

In addition to land the Trust manages as nature reserves, our staff work with many landowners in our living landscape areas to encourage them to take targeted action on their own land to benefit wildlife. Using the data held on habitats, species and ecological networks, the



Trust encourages other landowners to look beyond their own landholdings so landscape-scale conservation is achieved. Led by the Trust, and thanks to funding from the Mendip Hills Facilitation Fund, 14 landowners, including big and small farms, quarry companies, National Trust, South West Heritage Trust and the Longleat Estate, are now all working together to restore and support species-rich grassland networks across Mendip, which will benefit many species, including pollinators and rare bats.

Also in Mendip, the Trust has continued to monitor Hazel Dormice at six woodland sites. Working with Manchester Metropolitan University, hair samples have been collected to monitor gene flow between populations of dormice and fieldwork will be completed in 2018.

Inspiring people and communities to value and protect Somerset's nature

Reconnecting people with the natural world and promoting the benefits it provides is a key part of our conservation work. We work closely with local communities to promote the wildlife on their doorstep and improve access to wildlife and green spaces. Getting outdoors and connecting with nature is now proven to improve health and wellbeing and, in addition to working with schools and young people, we began a programme in Taunton to improve the mental as well as physical health of adults.

With the continuing support of Viridor Waste Management and a generous individual donor, the Trust launched a new project Green Spaces Healthy Places across Taunton to connect people in the town to wildlife and

their local green spaces to realise health and wellbeing benefits. New partnerships were formed in the health and social care sector, one in which the Trust had not directly worked previously. Working with Mind in Taunton and

West Somerset, volunteer work parties took part in practical conservation activities. Building on connections made during the Trust's very successful Routes to the River Tone project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which ended in June, established groups of volunteers helped at the community garden of Taunton Association for the Homeless. We worked with a special needs school and ran programmes on mindfulness and wildlife walks. With a pilot year nearing completion, the Trust is now gathering evidence to apply for major grant funding to continue this work.

Building on recent experience of working along Somerset's coastline, including our ongoing coastal survey and related events, a grant application was made in the year to the Community Impact Mitigation Fund. Towards the end of the year the Trust was awarded £159k to run a three-year project working with coastal communities which will begin in 2018-19.

In Mendip, our three-year project Save our Magnificent Meadows, part of a national project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, was completed in September. Working with partners across the UK, this project set out to transform the fortunes of wildflower meadows, grassland and wildlife, most of which have been lost in recent decades. Over three years, 8,700 people took part in events, volunteering, workshops and meadows open days, and four Mendip parishes created wildflower meadows in their communities. The Trust's Meadows' Market Stall was seen at farmers markets and 180 land managers benefitted from advice on wildlife-friendly management. Local schools were also involved with 200 children experiencing meadows on the Trust's Mendip reserves, which remain important survivors of traditional flower-rich grasslands.

The Trust launched a new phase of work in East Mendip – Mendip Wildlife Links. Funded through an agreement between Aggregate Industries UK and Somerset County Council, Torr Works Environmental Enhancement Fund, this project is designed to connect people to the wonderful habitats and wildlife in East Mendip. Many events are planned over the next few years to inspire wildlife enthusiasts and others to work together to secure the long-term future of the area's wildlife, and we will also be working with landowners on landscape-scale conservation guided by ecological networks.

In the Levels and Moors, a new and important education project was begun thanks to three-year funding from the Ninesquare Trust. In the

academic year 2017-18, the Trust has been able to work with 363 children from six schools in nearby Street, Glastonbury and Bridgwater, with each class having up to 12 sessions with our team spread across the seasons. Children have been able to experience wildlife near where they live, at both the Trust's Westhay and Catcott nature reserves, and there have been classroom sessions to help embed environmental learning into their everyday school life. This is an important and new approach for all those involved, and has been designed around best practice for learning. Once complete this project will provide the Trust with evidence to inform the development of its education programme.

Through the Wildlife Skills for the Future project, which ended in July, a total of 13 young people were trained by the Trust over three years. All are now working in the conservation sector, with 57 people in total trained across all four Wildlife Trusts which took part. The Heritage Lottery Fund has agreed to fund five Trusts, from July 2018, in a successor project, Wild Paths. For the next three years, we will have two trainees annually who will benefit from learning from our conservation staff and gain invaluable practical experience of nature reserve management and community engagement.

Our volunteer-led Local Area Groups and Wildlife Watch Groups for children ran a huge range of events across the county including talks, walks, workshops and plant sales, which attracted a wide age range, and covered a variety of wildlife topics.

New events were introduced to inspire people to value and protect wildlife, and also to raise funds for our work. Eight supporters opened their gardens for visitors under the new Somerset's Wildlife Gardens scheme, which attracted over 700 visitors and encouraged people to garden for wildlife. Working in partnership with the Red Brick Building in Glastonbury, the Trust brought the British Wildlife Photography Awards to Somerset for the first time, which attracted about 1,000 visitors. A truly inspiring night with leading naturalist Chris Packham in Yeovil was attended by 830 people and over 200 members enjoyed the new format Annual General Meeting and Members' Day in 2017, on the theme of Conservation in the 21st Century.



13

people trained
and now employed
in conservation



8,700

people
engaged
through
Save our
Magnificent
Meadows



363

nature-inspired
children

Standing up for nature

Our in-depth knowledge of Somerset and position as the county's largest conservation organisation means we are well placed to influence planning and policy-making in the county, and ensure the needs of wildlife are considered alongside those of people and the economy. The Trust believes it is only by working with others who can influence decisions on the wider county landscape, that real gains for wildlife can be achieved in Somerset.



Over
1,000
people
following
**Humans of
the Levels**

Greater emphasis was given to advocacy and campaigning in the year, following the Trust's strategic investment in this area in 2016-17. The Trust works with its conservation partners to raise awareness among decision-makers on the importance of Somerset's environment for the county's future economic prosperity, and people's health and wellbeing. This work also aims to promote the special environments of Somerset and make the case for investment and funding to protect our landscapes and wildlife in balance with the needs of development.

As part of the Green Spaces Healthy Places project, the Trust organised a conference which brought together Councillors, experts in health, planners, developers, businesses and representatives of community groups, to consider what Garden Town status means for Taunton, where 13,000 new homes are planned. A cross-sectoral group has now been established by the Trust to promote the multiple benefits of well-planned, green urban spaces and the Trust also now sits on the influential Taunton Economic Advisory Board, which will play a key role in guiding future development.

A first for the Trust was the launch of a digital advocacy project, Humans of the Levels, designed to put the spotlight on the unique people and special communities that can be found across the Levels and Moors. By building a Facebook-based community to share their own stories of living, working and visiting the area, we aim to build a strong group of

advocates for this key Somerset landscape, which is under pressure from climate change and development activity. Its launch generated significant media attention and by May 2018 the Facebook page had a following of over 1,000.

Meetings were held with and briefings sent to Somerset Members of Parliament and the new Leader of Somerset County Council on national and local issues. Somerset County Council produced the county's first Pollinator Plan as a result of closer working with the Trust and Friends of the Earth.

Ecological network maps continued to be used to provide comments to Local Planning Authorities and Highways England on large developments and infrastructure projects in Somerset, including the final route options for the A358 and A303. These maps were also used to respond to consultations on the South Somerset and Mendip Local Plans.

Further extension of the badger cull in 2017 beyond West Somerset meant the Trust's nature reserves were for the first time within the cull zone. The Trust remains firmly opposed to the badger cull, which is now in its fifth year, and does not allow badgers to be culled on its land. Together with Wildlife Trusts across the country, we continue to call for a science-based solution to bovine TB. The Trust responded to DEFRA's 2017 consultation and continues to call for long term cattle vaccination and more stringent biosecurity measures instead of culling badgers.

Engaging our supporters

Our supporters are central to our success, helping us practically as volunteers and through generously funding our work as members, donors and by leaving us gifts in their wills. We truly would not have the impact we do without their ongoing support, which means we have the resources required to ensure Somerset remains a habitat-diverse and wildlife-rich county. Our supporters help us year-round to look after the nature reserves in our care so they can be enjoyed by all who visit them, and also give their time to organise and help at events, and in the office. Thank you.

Enhancing our visitor experience

Our nature reserves can be enjoyed by everyone, whether simply wanting an inspiring place to walk or a special place to visit and experience the best wildlife Somerset has to offer.

We continued to enhance our nature reserves for visitors and update our nature reserves leaflets and signage. A new leaflet covering all the Trust's grassland reserves in the Mendip Hills was produced and interpretation boards were also updated. Elsewhere in Mendip, at Black Rock nature reserve, new resting posts were added and guided walks, and minibeast and scavenger hunts, were run as part of the National Trust's Cheddar-based South West Outdoor Festival, in which the Trust participated.

In the Poldens, a two-kilometre woodland waymarked trail was created at Great Breach Wood nature reserve, including new interpretation boards and aerial wildlife sculptures. One other highlight was the official opening in September by our Patron, wildlife

film-maker Simon King, of the impressive two-storey North Hide, overlooking the reedbeds at Westhay Moor National Nature Reserve. In addition to representatives of Viridor Credits and a generous individual who together had funded the hide's construction, children from Priddy School, who had designed wildlife images to adorn the outside of the hide, enjoyed the celebrations.

For a second season, the Trust employed a Visitor Experience Officer, whose work this year was focussed on our Westhay and Catcott reserves. A series of small events were organised to engage visitors and in particular families. Knowledgeable volunteers also took part readily sharing their species' expertise, and introducing people to the wildlife present, and to the reserves and their management.

Volunteers are really vital

Volunteers continued to give their time and also provide specialist skills to help us care for the county's wildlife and wild places.

The Trust has since its formation relied on many people who give their time to volunteer because they share our passion for Somerset's wildlife. Many do practical conservation work which is essential to keep our nature reserves in good condition. As critical are the volunteers who help us monitor and record the wildlife present.

It was for example through working with volunteers from the Somerset Botany Group this year that we were able to carry out habitat-

management at Cheddar Wood reserve specifically to benefit the Starved Wood-sedge, which is now only found at a handful of sites in Britain. Volunteer surveyors also found the rare Shrill Carder Bumblebee on four Trust reserves, providing data to support its conservation, and volunteers also worked with our Coastal Survey Officer.

Another notable achievement was four regular volunteers taking on the organisation of the Magnificent Meadows Conservation Group



2km
woodland trail
created at Great
Breach Wood



**Shrill Carder
Bumblebee**
found by
volunteer
surveyors



3,300

volunteer hours helped to conserve, restore and raise awareness of wildflower grasslands

to continue its work at the end of the project. In total volunteers contributed an incredible 3,300 hours of volunteer time to help conserve, restore and raise awareness of wildflower grasslands during the project's three years.

The Trust introduced a long-term volunteering scheme to provide the training and key certification needed to develop a career in practical conservation. This attracted both young people and others looking to change career, of which one has already secured their first job in the sector. Increasingly staff from local companies are also volunteering to work with us, with teams from John Wainwright and Co, EDF Energy, Viridor Waste Management and others all having helped us in the year.

Volunteers are critical to the Trust in so many ways and how they support us is growing. They assist us as Volunteer Reserve Wardens, and with administration, fundraising, communications, at events, and in photographing wildlife and people. We are enormously grateful for the support of all our volunteers and, in particular, our Area Group committees and Wildlife Watch leaders who organise many events for adults and children respectively across the county.

To ensure we provide a great volunteering experience, we reviewed our volunteering policies and practices, and how we monitor the time and skills they so generously give us, so we can truly recognise their support.

Membership growth continues

Somerset Wildlife Trust is a membership-based charity and 27% of our income comes from membership, which in 2017-18 was £639k. The members' magazine was relaunched as a twice-yearly publication, and membership retention continued to improve.



10,136 households are Somerset Wildlife Trust members; that's 18,364 members across the county who represent 3.4% of Somerset's population. Somerset is a rural county and our strong membership support gives us a powerful and growing voice to stand up for the county's wildlife. We are very grateful for the support our members give us as ambassadors for our work and in speaking up for wildlife, as well as their vital financial support. It was particularly encouraging that membership grew for the second successive year and in 2017-18 by 307 (2%).

retaining more members remains a priority. The staff of a not-for-profit organisation, South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL), wholly owned by eight Wildlife Trusts including Somerset, recruits new members for us at events and venues across the county. SWWFL is a member of the Institute of Fundraising, which monitors their performance through mystery shopping. Additionally, the Trust seeks feedback on SWWFL's recruiters in telephone calls to new members to thank them for their support, which are conducted on its behalf by Quality Telephone Services.

Membership income is one of the foundations of our annual funding and recruiting and

3.4% of Somerset's population are members

A growing group of funders

In 2017-18 fundraising accounted for 57% of our overall income: memberships, donations, gifts in wills and grants are vital to our work, and the combined generosity of the individuals and organisations that supported us raised £1.4m. Our supporters are really vital to our work and we thank them all for their generous funding.

Support from individuals grew significantly as a result, in particular, of a very positive response to appeals to help fund the delivery of the Trust's conservation strategy. The Somerset Nature Reserves Fund, which had been launched in February 2016, continued to be very well supported and raised £41k in 2017-18. The Fund will continue to be an important source of income to manage our nature

reserves and we cannot thank our supporters enough for their continuing generosity.

The Saving Somerset's Bats appeal raised £46k to improve conditions for the county's bats on our nature reserves and in the wider landscape, exceeding its target significantly thanks to the receipt of a very generous gift from an individual donor together with many other donations.

As part of diversifying our fundraising, two successful digital appeals were run, using fundraising platforms new to the Trust. First crowdfunding for the Perry Mead Wildflower project, raised £9k. Secondly £30k was generously donated through the Big Give Christmas Challenge for the Trust's project, A Safe Haven for Europe's Wetland Birds, to create more habitat for birds like Snipe, Redshank and Lapwing, at our Westhay and Catcott nature reserves.

Gifts in wills continue to be an invaluable and important source of support. Eight legacies were received with a total value of £117k and 44 supporters informed us that they had included the Trust in their wills; large or small, every gift in every will is very valuable to us.

Following a successful private fundraising phase, in April 2018 we launched a new Patrons' scheme to raise funds and build a group of our closest supporters. Patrons are able to attend exclusive Patrons' events, in Somerset and beyond, throughout the year and the first was held in May 2018.

Individual major donors, charitable trusts and other grant givers all supported our priority conservation projects generously. During the year three projects that had been funded predominantly by the Heritage Lottery Fund

ended – Save Our Magnificent Meadows, Routes to the River Tone and Wildlife Skills for the Future. Grants were awarded by the Community Impact Mitigation Fund to run a new project along Somerset's coast, and by the Ninesquare Trust to fund an innovative education project. Viridor Credits continued to support the Trust's work via the Trust's Action for Mendip's Bats project. Smaller grants were also received and we are very grateful for every grant awarded.

Businesses supported our work through our corporate membership scheme and as corporate partners, through corporate volunteering and sponsorship. Viridor Waste Management continued to be a key funder for a third year, providing critical funds to continue our work in Taunton.

Protecting and effectively engaging with our donors remains critically important to us. The Trust is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and committed to following its Code of Practice, which sets out standards of behaviour that are expected of fundraisers. The Trust is also registered with the Fundraising Preference Service, and reviewed the personal data it holds across the Trust and its use ahead of the introduction in May 2018 of the General Data Protection Regulations.

£1.4m
raised from
fundraising
which is
57%
of Trust income

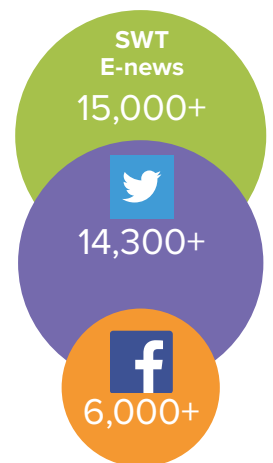


Promoting our cause

Somerset's wildlife is central to what makes our county such a special place to live, work and visit. We continued to extend the channels we use to reach out to people and involve them in our cause.

Digital channels are of growing importance and our Twitter and Facebook followers grew substantially enabling us to share news quickly, cost-effectively and with more people. New digital communications tools were embraced to extend our reach in major digital campaigns,

like public votes for the national Heritage Lottery Awards and fundraising via the Big Give. We also continued to use print and broadcast media to get our message into the heart of local communities and to introduce us to a wider audience.



Subscribers
and followers



Financial review

Despite the challenging economic climate continuing, the Trust achieved an improved position and an overall surplus of £67k (£17k deficit: 2016-17). Both income and expenditure were significantly lower than in 2016-17 as a result of the completion of large grant-funded conservation projects and an exceptional increase in the defined benefit pension scheme liability in 2016-17. On a strict earned-income basis, which the Trust uses internally to monitor performance, the results for the year showed a breakeven position (£29k deficit: 2016-17).

A small surplus of £18k (£135k deficit: 2016-17) was recognised on unrestricted and designated funds. The deficit in 2016-17 was due to £199.5k additional cost recognised in the year as a result of an increase in the defined benefit pension scheme liability following the actuarial valuation carried out as at 1 April 2016 and subsequent revised Recovery Plan, partially offset by a £93k gain in the value of the Trust's portfolio of investments. Excluding these extraordinary items in 2016-17 the overall position has improved by £48k.

A new financial model, which, together with actions to reduce costs and diversify and grow fundraising income, has been implemented to enable the Trust to achieve a balanced budget without the need to draw on financial reserves in future years. This is in recognition of the need to ensure long-term financial stability in a challenging economic environment as well as uncertainty and potential risk, following Britain's decision to leave the European Union, particularly to funding from agri-environment schemes which currently provide significant income for the management of our nature reserves.

A surplus of £49k (£118k: 2016-17) was recognised on restricted funds which represents restricted funds received during the year which will be expended in future financial years for a purpose agreed with the funder.

Income

In addition to income from members, which forms the majority of the charity's annual unrestricted income, a significant proportion of income is derived from grants which enables the Trust to carry out specific work and projects, and are predominantly restricted funds, which may be used only for the purpose agreed with the donor.

Income for the year, excluding the gain on investments, totalled £2.4m (£2.8m: 2016-17). The reduction in income compared to 2016-17 is due to the completion of four major multi-year projects funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund: the Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership which ended in 2016-17, and the Routes to the River Tone, Save Our Magnificent Meadows and Wildlife Skills for the Future projects which were completed during the year.

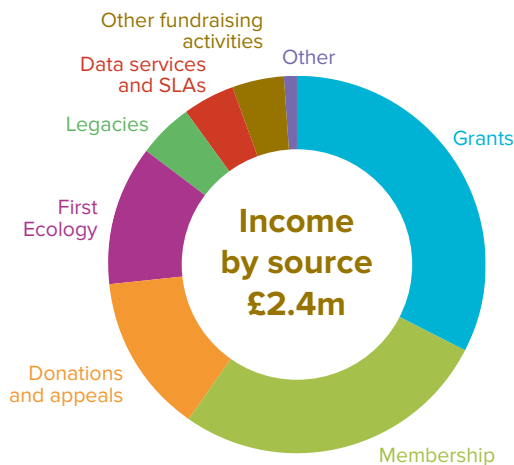
Grant income during the year totalled £768k (£1.3m: 2016-17) and continues to be the largest source of income representing 32% of total income. A total of £518k (£525k: 2016-17)

representing 67% of total grant income was received through agri-environment schemes, which supports the management of our nature reserves, many of which are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and important habitats for wildlife.

As a result of a new fundraising strategy implemented in 2015-16 income from membership, donations and appeals increased by 15% to £964k (£839k: 2016-17). Membership continues to be a vital source of unrestricted funding for the Trust. A total of £647k (£628k: 2016-17) was received during the year from individual and corporate members

representing the second largest source of income in the year and 27% of total income. As in 2016-17 an increase in the number of members was achieved.

Income from donations and appeals totalled £316k (£211k: 2016-17) which included four very successful appeals during the year which raised £126k (£55k: 2016-17) including two new digital initiatives which combined raised £39k.



Gifts in wills are an important part of the Trust's income and legacy income totalling £117k (£226k: 2016-17) was received in the year which has been credited to the designated development reserve fund for future projects. The Trust has also been notified of bequests in the region of £170k. These bequests are not recognised in the financial year due to

Expenditure

Total expenditure in the year was £2.3m (£2.9m: 2016-17). This includes £1.5m expenditure on nature conservation in Somerset (£2.1m: 2016-17) representing the Trust's charitable activities. Total direct expenditure on charitable activities reduced as expected by £361k due to the completion of major grant funded projects.

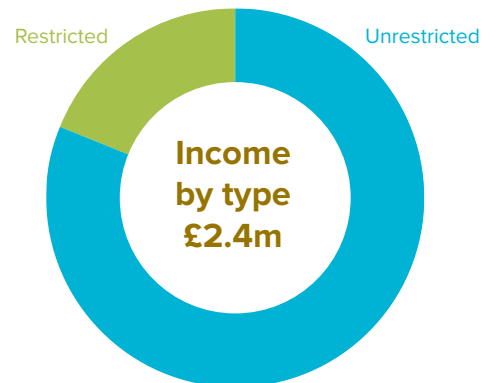
The most significant expenditure in the year was in relation to the management of nature reserves which totalled £733k (£881k: 2016-17). Expenditure in 2016-17 included £99k of visitor improvements, primarily funded by Viridor Credits, including the construction of a new bird hide on Westhay Moor.

The year saw the most significant reduction in expenditure within conservation delivery in inspiring people and communities £308k (£797k: 2016-17), which was due to the completion of major grant funded projects. £360k (£387k: 2016-17) was spent on other

uncertainty over the timing of receipts and the amounts receivable.

Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC), which is hosted by the Trust and the main centre for holding data on wildlife sightings, types of environments and geological information for Somerset, received £107k (£103k: 2016-17) income, primarily through Service Level Agreements and data searches.

Income from other trading activities was £383k (£347k: 2016-17). This includes £282k (£264k: 2016-17) from the Trust's trading subsidiary, First Ecology, whose net profit increased by 37% to £85k (£62k: 2016-17) and has been Gift Aided to the Trust. The potential for the future growth of First Ecology is being explored and a revised business plan is being developed. Income from other fundraising events and activities increased overall by 20% to £101k (£84k: 2016-17).



Trust conservation projects, including rebuilding ecological networks across the county through mapping, surveying and working with other landowners, and to run SERC, and £86k (£71k: 2016-17) was used to undertake policy and campaigning activities to ensure wildlife is considered in decision-making at a county level.

The continued planned investment in First Ecology resulted in expenditure rising by 14% to £281k (£246k: 2016-17).

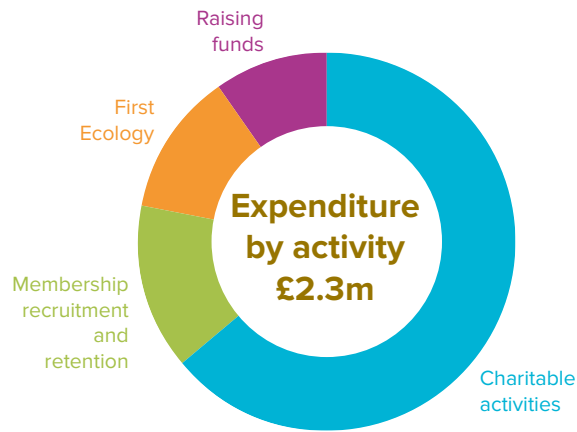
The cost of raising funds and membership recruitment and retention totalled £544k

(£560k: 2016-17). Although a small reduction in expenditure was recognised in the year investment in fundraising continues to be important to enable the delivery of the fundraising strategy implemented in 2015-16 to increase and diversify unrestricted income streams.

Support costs totalled £515k (£714k: 2016-17) representing 22% of overall expenditure. The reduction compared to last financial year is entirely due to the £199.5k increase in pension liability included in 2016-17.

The majority of the Trust's expenditure is represented by staff costs as we rely on the specialist knowledge of our conservation and land management teams, in particular, to fulfil our charitable purposes. In 2017-18 staff costs totalled £1.3m (£1.4m: 2016-17), as outlined in

note 8, representing 56% of total expenditure. This figure has reduced compared to 2016-17 due to the completion of major grant funded projects and re-structuring of the Senior Leadership Team.



Funds of the Charity

Overall charity funds remain at £5.2m (£5.2m: 2016-17). The £44k planned reduction in designated funds is offset by a £112k increase in restricted and unrestricted funds.

The £49k increase in restricted funds represents income received in the year which will be expended in future financial years.

Restricted funds are funds which the Trust has a legal obligation to use only for the specific purpose for which they were donated. These funds cannot therefore be used to fund the general operations of the Trust outside those specific purposes.

Designated funds decreased by £44k from £3.03m to £2.99m during the year as a result

of planned expenditure. Designated funds include £2.1m of tangible and heritage fixed assets, of which £1.4m are nature reserves, and £925k which has been set aside by the Trust for specific purposes in future years. A breakdown of designated funds is included in note 17.

Endowment funds represent a proportion of the Trust's £3m nature reserves and remain at £1.6m (£1.6m: 2016-17).

Financial reserves policy

The Trust has a policy of holding reserves of funds to:

- Enable it to take advantage of unanticipated opportunities to further the aims of the Trust, for example by the purchase of land which may become available.
- Provide adequate working capital to carry out projects for which funds have been granted by external bodies, but for which those funds are payable only after expenditure has been incurred.
- Provide a reserve to cover short-term payment of essential costs, such as staff salaries, in the event of an unanticipated shortfall in funds.
- Meet any legal obligation on the Trust to meet any future costs.

Financial reserves holdings

Total reserves at the end of the year amounted to £5.2m (£5.2m: 2016-17), although a significant proportion of this total is represented by tangible and heritage fixed assets, leaving financial reserves of £1.1m (£1m: 2016-17).

Total reserves	£5,242,057
Less:	
Restricted funds	(£276,092)
Tangible & heritage fixed assets	(£3,871,350)
Total available reserves	£1,094,615

Financial reserves include £925k which has been designated by Council for specific purposes in future years.

Investments

The value of the Trust's investment portfolio at the end of the year was £752k (£751k: 2016-17) and generated income of £19k (£16k: 2016-17). The Trust recognised a small £6k gain (£93k: 2016-17) arising from revaluations in the year.

The investment portfolio is managed to provide the Trust with a range of sound marketable investments providing a balance of regular income and opportunity for capital growth. This requires a balanced portfolio consisting of investment grade fixed interest stocks or funds of fixed interest stocks and equities.

An ethical investment policy has been adopted to ensure that the investment portfolio

consists of stocks consistent with the Trust's obligation to further its charitable activities, whilst ensuring that its investments do not conflict with its aims and objectives. The Trust's ethical investment policy seeks to encourage investment in companies with strong sustainability policies and practices that respect and protect wildlife, communities and their wider environment.

Risk management

All key risks are identified and managed through a Register of Risks which is reviewed annually by Council members. A risk-based approach is being embedded in all of the organisation's planning and decision-making so that any major risks are anticipated and planned for in a structured way.

The Trustees have examined the principal areas of the Trust's work and considered the major risks arising in each of these areas. In the opinion of the Trustees, the Trust has established processes and systems which, under normal circumstances, should allow the

risks identified by them to be mitigated to an acceptable level in its day-to-day operations. The Trust also compiles and shares The Wildlife Trusts' benchmarks on governance, finances and other issues to support risk management.

Looking ahead

The importance of our work as the leading conservation organisation in Somerset is now greater than ever before as our county comes under increasing development pressure and is impacted by climate change. As a result, some of our best-loved species and habitats are under real threat.

Our influence as an organisation working in Somerset, and nationally with the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, will be increasingly crucial to keep the environment on local and national agendas. The Trust will continue its advocacy work to ensure that the environment and key wildlife issues are at the heart of decision-making in Somerset. Continuing to work on a landscape-scale, leading by example and in partnership, will mean we can deliver the best possible outcomes for Somerset's wildlife and wild places.

Nature needs to recover. To make this happen will require us to continue to rebuild ecological networks across the county, and inspire more people to value, protect and stand up for nature. The Trust will continue to manage large areas of land and is part way through a project initiated in 2016-17 to establish a clear plan for its nature reserves to ensure they are managed in the best way to benefit wildlife and visitors.

In 2018-19 we will be starting important conservation projects. We will be working with the Sustainable Eel Group on a project to improve eel populations in the Brue Valley, which is funded by the European Union. This will include habitat improvement and surveying, and also communicating about eels' ecological importance. Thanks to successful appeals in 2017-18, we will be creating more habitat for wintering and breeding birds, including putting in a shallow scrape near the main hide at Catcott, and elsewhere in the county investing funds raised to improve conditions for bats.

The Trust is also part of The Blues and Browns of Polden Hills, an important three-year

partnership project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to conserve Large Blue and Brown Hairstreak butterflies in South Somerset, which is led by Butterfly Conservation.

Over the next few years we will be working with people living near Somerset's coast via our Somerset's Brilliant Coast project. There will be a programme of events to inspire people to learn more about Somerset's coastline and become involved in its conservation, and we will engage coastal parishes enabling and empowering them to make stronger connections between their villages and the coast. Finally, we will work with schools and youth groups taking young people to the coast to explore, learn and create. We will also continue to work in our county town, Taunton, and will be seeking a major grant to fund this work.

The Trustees believe it remains important that the charity plans for an uncertain funding climate. Hence, looking ahead, the Trust will continue to focus its work to deliver its conservation strategy but also to widen and grow its supporter base of members, funders and volunteers. The Trust will continue to grow its knowledge and use of digital media so we can communicate with our supporters quickly and cost-effectively, and promote our cause to a larger audience.

All of this will mean that we are an influential and impactful Somerset charity, operating in a sustainable way. And most importantly of all, an organisation ensuring Somerset remains the really special place it is to live, work and visit – a county that is habitat-diverse and wildlife-rich.



Objectives and activities

Charitable purpose

Somerset Wildlife Trust is set up to achieve three charitable objects:

1. For the benefit of the public, to advance, promote and further the conservation, maintenance, protection and enjoyment of wildlife and its habitats, including places of botanical, geographical, zoological, archaeological or scientific interest and places of natural beauty;
2. To advance the education of the public in the principles of biodiversity conservation and of sustainable development;
3. To promote research in all branches of ecology and geology.

The Trust delivers its charitable purposes through its strategic objectives as described in this report.

The Trust measures its success by:

- Quantitative assessment of the financial success of the Trust on behalf of its members
- Qualitative feedback from Trustees, members, volunteers and partners
- Annual endorsement of its role and strategy at the Annual General Meeting of members
- Monitoring and reporting on complaints received

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The Trust's public benefit is enshrined in its charitable objectives and activities – providing multiple benefits for the public which are wide-ranging and long-lasting.

Land advice

Through providing advice and assistance to farmers and landowners the Trust helps to support the rural economy, the countryside and landscapes that are enjoyed and valued by the wider public.

Nature reserves

The Trust's nature reserves, located throughout Somerset are used extensively by the public for quiet recreation; many have access on clearly marked paths along with information and interpretation for visitors.

Research

Evidence and advice provided by the Trust to local authorities, landowners and communities helps to ensure that decisions on policies such as land management, development, health and wellbeing take full account of the public benefit of wildlife and a healthy environment.

Education and engagement

The Trust delivers a broad education and engagement programme, inspiring people of all ages every year - from schools, adult groups and the wider public - to enjoy and benefit from contact with the natural world, enhancing their health and wellbeing.

Conservation

The Trust's habitat management and restoration work help to create habitats which provide essential 'ecosystem services' for the public, such as flood risk management, carbon storage, pollination, pollution control and aesthetic beauty. Government and businesses are now recognising the essential role that nature plays in supporting the economy, not least through the provision of these public goods and services.

Structure, governance and management

Structure

Somerset Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its articles of association.

Somerset Wildlife Trust is a member of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (registered charity number 207238) along with 46 other local Wildlife Trust members throughout the UK which are collectively known as The Wildlife Trusts.

Somerset Wildlife Trust is also a partner in the South West Wildlife Trusts, an independent charity formed by seven of the eight Wildlife Trusts located in the South West of England and the Isles of Scilly to increase the effectiveness of the Wildlife Trusts in the South West.

Somerset Wildlife Trust has one wholly owned subsidiary, **SWT (Sales) Limited**. The charity owns 100% of the company's ordinary share capital. The principal activities of SWT (Sales) Limited are that of overseeing the environmental consultancy, First Ecology.

First Ecology is the Trust's consultancy. It provides ecological consultancy, protected species' surveys, planning support and land management services to a wide range of clients. It is based at the Trust's Callow Rock

offices. First Ecology trades under SWT (Sales) Ltd and is a company limited by shares and registered in England No. 1317396.

Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC) was established in 1986 and is hosted by the Somerset Wildlife Trust at the Trust's office in Taunton. The core work of SERC is to gather, manage and supply biological and geological data and hold the county list of sites recognised for their natural value. Data gathered by SERC is used to build up a comprehensive picture of the biodiversity and geodiversity of Somerset, and help to monitor the state of the natural environment. SERC is a member of the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres and has close links to the National Biodiversity Network, and the National Federation of Biological Recorders.

South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL) is a not-for-profit organisation that was set up by seven Wildlife Trusts to help them to secure regular financial support through memberships. SWWFL provides membership recruitment services for Somerset, Avon, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Worcestershire Wildlife Trusts, and from 2016-17 also for Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Governance and management

Council

Each member elected to serve on Council has a dual role as a Trustee of the Charity and a Director of the company. There can be no fewer than 10 and no more than 15 Trustees. All members of Council are volunteers, give freely of their time and have no beneficial interest in the group or charity.

Trustees are elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and serve for a term of five years. Each Trustee can serve for two consecutive terms of office and then must stand down for a year until they become eligible to stand again.

The Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer are elected by Council following the AGM and serve one-year terms. No Trustee can hold the position of Chair, Vice-Chair or Treasurer for more than five consecutive years.

To ensure that Council is equipped to carry out its responsibilities it carries out skills

analysis of existing members before new ones are appointed. In addition, each new Council member receives a full induction into the work and administration of the charity. Council members receive regular updates on the work of the Trust and any training deemed necessary to enable members to carry out their responsibilities.

At the Trust AGM in October 2017, two new Trustees were elected and four Trustees were re-elected.

Council is assisted by four Committees:

Finance and Resources Committee: development and monitoring of annual budgets and forecasts, scrutiny of accounts, oversight of investments and financial controls, policy development, advice on business risk and resource management and income generation;

Conservation Committee: advice on conservation policy, research and monitoring, land acquisitions and disposals;

Health and Safety Committee: oversight on all health and safety matters in the Trust; and

Risk Management Committee: advising on the Trust's risk appetite and risk tolerance, reviewing and monitoring current and potential business risks.

In addition, the chairs of all committees meet with the Chair of Council and the Chief Executive Officer twice a year to review governance performance.

Transactions involving Council members and related parties

During 2017-18 a total of £16,542 (£3,277: 2016-17) was received from Trustees in respect of membership and donations.

Strategy and policy setting

Council is responsible to further the objectives of the Trust as set out in the articles of association. The focus of Council's work is on setting and reviewing the strategic direction for the Trust, on monitoring its delivery of agreed targets and to ensure that the income and expenditure of the Trust and its property and assets are managed appropriately. Council determines the strategy of the Trust through a five-year strategic plan which was updated in 2014-15 for 2015-16 onwards. The strategy is available in full to download from the Trust's website and is produced as a summary for members as required.

Staffing

Council appoints the Chief Executive Officer and supports the appointment process for members of the Senior Leadership Team. In practice, this translates into giving the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Leadership Team clear strategic objectives for the Trust which have demonstrable outcomes for wildlife in the county, and ensuring that the Trust's financial affairs are managed appropriately.

The Chief Executive Officer reports to the Chair of Trustees. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day to day running of the Trust and has delegated powers of authority approved by the Council. The Chief Executive Officer delegates decision making powers through the Senior Leadership Team into the organisation.

During the year the Trust employed 46 full-time equivalent staff, three of which worked for SERC and six for First Ecology. The majority of the Trust's staff are based at its headquarters in Taunton with others based at Ford Farm, the Avalon Marshes Centre and Callow Rock. The staff are organised into functional teams and also work in cross-functional teams, such as for delivering major projects.

Complaints

The Trust treats all complaints seriously. The Trust's complaints policy was revised and reissued to all staff on 15 March 2018. In the year 2017-18 the Trust received a total of five complaints. Three complaints were related to membership and one to reserve boundary fencing. The fifth complaint related to another organisation and was passed to that organisation for resolution. All of the complaints were responded to within seven days. Complaints are individually reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer and relevant senior staff and monitored by Trustees as part of a system for continuous improvement.



Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Somerset Wildlife Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with 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).

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

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

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the Trustees on 18 July 2018 and signed on their behalf by:



Patricia Stainton
Chair

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Somerset Wildlife Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Somerset Wildlife Trust (the "parent charitable company") and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2018 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent company Balance Sheets, consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2018 and of the group's income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report).

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

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

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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 they 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.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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



Christine Glover MA FCA

Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of A C Mole & Sons
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Stafford House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset TA1 2PX

18 July 2018

Financial statements



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary. © Heath McDonald

Consolidated statement of financial activities

(Including consolidated income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2018

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds General £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2017 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	788,196	116,862	175,495	-	1,080,553	1,064,798
Charitable activities:							
Inspiring people and communities	3	684	-	152,249	-	152,933	545,314
Rebuilding ecological networks	3	106,658	-	64,855	-	171,513	199,199
Nature reserves	3	536,408	-	36,412	-	572,820	666,762
Other trading activities	4	367,693	-	15,000	-	382,693	347,493
Investments	5	19,843	-	-	-	19,843	17,742
Total		1,819,482	116,862	444,011	-	2,380,355	2,841,308
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		833,221	-	-	-	833,221	816,733
Charitable activities:							
Inspiring people and communities		110,957	7,000	189,766	-	307,723	796,605
Rebuilding ecological networks		261,439	-	98,176	-	359,615	386,807
Standing up for nature		39,614	17,628	28,437	-	85,679	70,609
Nature reserves		632,803	21,753	78,619	-	733,175	881,273
Total	6	1,878,034	46,381	394,998	-	2,319,413	2,952,027
Net gains on investments		6,482	-	-	-	6,482	93,293
Net income/(expenditure)		(52,070)	70,481	49,013	-	67,424	(17,426)
Transfers between funds	18	114,834	(114,834)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		62,764	(44,353)	49,013	-	67,424	(17,426)
Reconciliation of funds							
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2017		280,553	3,033,152	227,079	1,633,849	5,174,633	5,192,059
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2018		343,317	2,988,799	276,092	1,633,849	5,242,057	5,174,633

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 32 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated and Trust balance sheets

As at 31 March 2018


	Notes	Group		Trust	
		2018 £	2017 £	2018 £	2017 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11	850,872	896,392	841,881	884,923
Heritage assets	11	3,020,478	3,020,478	3,020,478	3,020,478
Investments	12	751,910	751,393	751,913	751,396
		4,623,260	4,668,263	4,614,272	4,656,797
Current assets					
Stocks and work in progress	13	9,026	7,221	2,286	2,707
Debtors	14	526,220	666,951	577,761	676,510
Deposit accounts		570,261	419,318	570,261	419,318
Cash at bank and in hand		152,794	139,178	111,458	130,566
		1,258,301	1,232,668	1,261,766	1,229,101
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	139,704	191,798	134,336	176,920
Net current assets		1,118,597	1,040,870	1,127,430	1,052,181
Total assets less current liabilities		5,741,857	5,709,133	5,741,702	5,708,978
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	10	499,800	534,500	499,800	534,500
Total net assets		5,242,057	5,174,633	5,241,902	5,174,478
The funds of the charity					
Endowment funds		1,633,849	1,633,849	1,633,849	1,633,849
Restricted funds		276,092	227,079	276,092	227,079
Designated funds		2,988,799	3,033,152	2,988,799	3,033,152
Unrestricted funds		343,317	280,553	343,162	280,398
Total charity funds	19	5,242,057	5,174,633	5,241,902	5,174,478

The notes on pages 32 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 28 to 45 were approved by the Trustees on 18 July 2018 and signed on their behalf by:



Patricia Stainton
Chair



John Scotford CBE
Treasurer

Somerset Wildlife Trust
Registered company number 818162

Consolidated statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2018

	Note	2018 £	2017 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22	156,877	32,296
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		19,843	17,742
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		-	121,284
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(18,126)	(41,227)
Proceeds from sale of investments		92,523	135,126
Purchase of investments		(84,735)	(145,452)
Net cash provided by investing activities		9,505	87,473
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		166,382	119,769
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		573,542	453,773
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		739,924	573,542

The notes on pages 32 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

Notes forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2018

1. Accounting policies

(a) Charitable company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. The liability of the guarantors, who are the members, is limited to £1 per guarantor. At 31 March 2018 the charity had 18,364 members. The company is registered in England & Wales. The registered office address is 34 Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AW. On behalf of the members, the Council controls the company.

(b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention with the exception of listed investments which are included at their market value.

The Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

(c) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

(d) Group financial statements

The financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly owned subsidiary SWT (Sales) Limited on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of financial activities and income and expenditure account for the charity has not been presented because the Trust has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The surplus/(deficit) in the year for the charity was £67,424 (2017: (£17,426)). Note 20 gives full details of the results of the subsidiary undertaking for the year to 31 March 2018.

(e) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Certain unrestricted funds have been designated by the Trustees for specific purposes.

Designated funds

The designated opportunity reserve fund represents funds that the charity has set aside in order to support a vital piece of conservation work for which no other funds are available.

The designated nature reserve fund represents funds that the charity has applied to the purchase of nature reserves.

The designated operating freehold fund relates to the purchase of the Trust's headquarters, a freehold property in Taunton.

The designated nature reserve development fund represents proceeds from the sale of land during 2016-17 which the charity has set aside specifically for re-investment in nature reserves.

The designated development reserve fund represents funds that the charity has set aside for investment in future projects and opportunities.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds that are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Endowment funds

The nature reserves endowment fund represents amounts received specifically for, and expended on, the purchase of nature reserves.

(f) Income

All income is included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity 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 when a distribution is received from the estate. Legacies are credited to the designated development reserve on receipt.

Grants are included in the SOFA in the year they are receivable. Grants received in respect of the purchase of specific nature reserves are credited to the nature reserves endowment fund.

Income from investments and from rental income is included in the SOFA in the year it is receivable.

The total income receivable in respect of membership is included as income from membership within note 2. Income from life membership is included in the SOFA in the year in which it is receivable.

Gifts in kind are included in the SOFA at their estimated current value in the year in which they are receivable.

(g) Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. Where an employee works in more than one department, their costs are allocated on the basis of time worked in each department. Certain overhead costs, such as relevant insurance premiums, are allocated on the basis of staff numbers, while others are allocated on an actual usage basis.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

(h) Tangible & heritage fixed assets and depreciation

Heritage assets are assets of historical or scientific importance that are held to advance the preservation, conservation and educational objectives of the charity and through public access contribute to the nation's culture and education at either a national or local level. Freehold nature reserves are included in heritage fixed assets at their acquisition costs and they are not revalued or depreciated. The charity aims to preserve and enhance its nature reserves, which are

not held for their resale potential. The market value of the reserves is of no practical relevance to the charity's activities. No depreciation is provided because the reserves have an indefinite life.

The costs of leasehold nature reserves are amortised over the period of the lease.

Depreciation is provided on all other tangible fixed assets as follows:

Freehold property: 2% on a straight line basis

Computers: on a straight line basis over 3 years

Plant and equipment: 15% on written down value

Motor vehicles: 25% on written down value

Office equipment, furniture and fittings: 15% on written down value

(i) Investments

Listed Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes all net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year. The investment in the subsidiary is stated at cost.

(j) Stock

Stock consists of purchased goods for resale. Stock is valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

(k) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

(l) Financial instruments

The Trust 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 as noted above.

(m) Pension costs

Some employees are members of a stakeholder pension scheme. The Trust contributes between 3% and 7% of their annual salary. In addition the Trust has agreed a deficit funding arrangement in respect of the deficit in The Wildlife Trusts final salary pension scheme and has recognised a liability for this obligation. The scheme is now closed to new members. The amount recognised is the net present value of the contributions payable under the agreement. The amount is expensed in the SOFA. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost.

(n) Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period as incurred.

(o) Volunteer support

The Trust receives support from a wide variety of volunteers. It is not practical to place a value on the time volunteered by all these persons, due to the variety of duties performed, the differences in time spent, and the sheer number of volunteers who kindly donated their time.

(p) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. Estimates and judgements 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. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The Trustees are of the opinion that there are no estimates or assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Membership ¹	647,205	-	647,205	627,784
Donations and appeals	140,991	175,495	316,486	211,231
Legacies	116,862	-	116,862	225,783
	905,058	175,495	1,080,553	1,064,798

¹ Membership includes corporate membership £8,067 (2017: £11,183).

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Inspiring people and communities				
Natural England	-	19,900	19,900	-
Statutory body grants	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Heritage Lottery Fund grants	-	103,520	103,520	516,254
Education provision	684	-	684	1,060
Other grants	-	23,829	23,829	23,000
	684	152,249	152,933	545,314
Rebuilding ecological networks				
Landfill tax credit scheme	-	1,856	1,856	4,504
Natural England	-	18,697	18,697	3,243
Statutory body grants	-	3,000	3,000	-
Other grants	-	41,302	41,302	89,709
Consultancy fees	1,300	-	1,300	560
Service level agreements	75,382	-	75,382	78,607
Data services	23,790	-	23,790	20,134
Sales income	6,186	-	6,186	2,442
	106,658	64,855	171,513	199,199
Nature reserves				
Landfill tax credit scheme	-	-	-	105,361
DEFRA	513,099	4,886	517,985	525,194
Statutory body grants	-	-	-	2,127
Forestry Commission	1,087	-	1,087	4,182
Heritage Lottery Fund grants	-	-	-	1,858
Other grants	-	31,526	31,526	5,488
Grazing licences and property lettings	20,230	-	20,230	15,465
Wood and firewood sales	1,992	-	1,992	7,087
	536,408	36,412	572,820	666,762
	643,750	253,516	897,266	1,411,275

4. Income from other trading activities

	Trust £	SWT (Sales) Ltd (see note 20) £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Shop sales	2,178	-	2,178	4,194
Advertising	-	-	-	1,362
Fundraising events	39,010	-	39,010	37,122
Other fundraising activities	59,261	-	59,261	41,205
First Ecology	-	282,244	282,244	263,610
	100,449	282,244	382,693	347,493

Other fundraising activities include £15,000 restricted funds.

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Dividends receivable from equity shares	18,511	-	18,511	15,840
Interest receivable from loan	385	-	385	866
Interest receivable from bank and deposit accounts	947	-	947	1,036
	19,843	-	19,843	17,742

6. Breakdown of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Expenditure on raising funds				
Cost of raising funds	171,819	44,354	216,173	230,998
Membership recruitment and retention	277,023	50,953	327,976	328,778
Merchandising costs	1,978	-	1,978	3,162
Investment management fees	6,516	-	6,516	7,331
First Ecology	208,154	72,424	280,578	246,464
	665,490	167,731	833,221	816,733
Charitable activities				
Inspiring people and communities	206,789	100,934	307,723	796,605
Rebuilding ecological networks	256,655	102,960	359,615	386,807
Standing up for nature	68,192	17,487	85,679	70,609
Nature reserves	606,855	126,320	733,175	881,273
	1,138,491	347,701	1,486,192	2,135,294
	1,803,981	515,432	2,319,413	2,952,027

Support cost breakdown by activity

	Costs of raising funds £	Membership recruitment and retention £	First Ecology £	Inspiring people and communities £	Rebuilding ecological networks £	Standing up for nature £	Nature reserves £	Total 2018 £
Finance	7,007	7,007	14,014	12,613	19,854	3,504	24,057	88,056
HR/staff support	4,486	4,486	8,981	8,082	12,727	2,245	15,418	56,425
Office costs	5,607	5,607	11,213	10,090	15,887	2,803	19,252	70,459
Property and motor vehicles	4,909	4,909	9,820	8,838	13,913	2,455	16,857	61,701
Recoverable VAT	(6,599)	-	(825)	(825)	(825)	(825)	(6,598)	(16,497)
Marketing	14,606	14,606	541	36,326	769	135	8,100	75,083
Information technology	4,665	4,665	9,330	8,397	13,218	2,333	16,019	58,627
National and regional support	4,221	4,221	8,445	7,600	11,963	2,111	14,496	53,057
Insurance	292	292	584	525	827	146	1,002	3,668
Governance	5,160	5,160	10,321	9,288	14,627	2,580	17,717	64,853
	44,354	50,953	72,424	100,934	102,960	17,487	126,320	515,432

Basis of allocation

Finance	Headcount
HR/staff support	Headcount
Office costs	Headcount
Property & motor vehicles	Headcount
Recoverable VAT	Actual resources expended
Marketing	Actual resources expended
Information technology	Headcount
National & regional support	Headcount
Insurance	Headcount
Governance	Headcount

7. Other cost disclosures

	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Depreciation	63,364	69,617
Auditors' remuneration		
Audit fees	11,978	11,530
Loss/(Profit) on disposal of fixed assets	282	(65,116)

8. Staff costs

	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Wages and salaries	1,160,081	1,301,367
Social security costs	95,647	106,580
Pension costs	36,075	38,902
	1,291,803	1,446,849

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

Total remuneration of key management personnel in the period was £164,220 (2017: £198,265).

The key management personnel of the group and the parent charity, comprise the Trustees, Chief Executive Officer, Director of Conservation, Director of Fundraising and Marketing and Director of Land Management (to 18 August 2017).

The average number of employees during the year, analysed by function, was:

	2018 Number £	2017 Number £
Charitable activities	47	51
Raising funds	7	7
Governance	1	1

The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year totalled 46 (2017: 50).

9. Trustee emoluments

	2018 £	2017 £
Reimbursement of Trustees' travel costs	358	316
Donations received from Trustees	16,542	3,277

Trustees did not receive any remuneration or benefits in kind during either year.

Three trustees were reimbursed for travel expenses during the year (2017: two).

10. Pension costs

The Trust participates in the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme, a hybrid, multi-employer pension scheme which provides benefits to members on a defined benefit or a defined contribution basis, as decided by each employer. The Trust participates in the defined benefit and the defined contribution sections. The scheme is run in such a way that the Trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the defined benefit section.

Contributions to the defined benefit section of the Scheme are determined on the basis of triennial actuarial valuations carried out by an independent, qualified actuary. In the valuation as at 1 April 2004 the Scheme did not satisfy the Minimum Funding Requirement and therefore a decision was taken to close the Scheme with effect from 30 September 2005. The Trust will continue to contribute to the Scheme to ensure that the accrued benefits of employees will be met.

The latest valuation was carried out as at 1 April 2016 on a Statutory Funding Objective basis. The assumptions that have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the discount rates, the rates of increase in pensions and the life expectancy of pensioners. In making this valuation it was assumed that the discount rates would be 4.45% per annum pre-retirement, and 2.2% post retirement, and that pensions accrued on or after 30 June 1996 increase by the lower of inflation and 5% per annum. Post retirement

mortality assumptions are based on S2PA tables projected by each member's year of birth.

As at the valuation date the value of Scheme's assets was £11.1m and the deficit was £5.9m. A revised Recovery Plan has been received from the pension Scheme Trustees. In accordance with the new Recovery Plan the deficit is payable by monthly instalments which will increase by 30% in August 2018, followed by a 3% increase per annum in subsequent years to 2026. Based on the 1 April 2016 valuation, the estimated present value of the future contributions required from the Trust to meet its share of the deficit is £499,800 (£534,500: 2016-17) and this has been provided for in the accounts in accordance with FRS 102. The liability has been discounted using a discount rate of 2.58% (2.51%: 2016-17) as per the yield of the IBoxx Sterling Corporates AA rated bond over 15 years. The contributions paid in the year of £46,441 (£45,176: 2016-17) have reduced the liability accordingly with the unwinding of the interest being shown as a finance cost. The finance cost during the year was £11,741 (£23,376: 2016-17).

The Trust contributes between 3% and 7% of annual salary to employees' current pension schemes, all of which are now defined contribution in nature. The pension charge for the year in respect of these contributions amounted to £36,075 (£38,902: 2016-17).

11. Tangible & heritage fixed assets

Group

	Nature reserves		Freehold property	Leasehold property	Plant and equipment	Vehicles	Office equipment	Total
	Freehold	Leasehold						
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost								
At 1 April 2017	3,020,478	103,946	736,230	3,600	361,747	147,604	217,347	4,590,952
Additions	-	-	-	-	1,598	13,718	2,810	18,126
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,000)	(6,396)	(69,242)	(76,638)
At 31 March 2018	3,020,478	103,946	736,230	3,600	362,345	154,926	150,915	4,532,440
Depreciation								
At 1 April 2017	-	103,752	44,067	2,343	239,306	107,738	176,876	674,082
Charge for the year	-	2	14,725	155	18,441	13,106	16,935	63,364
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(874)	(6,240)	(69,242)	(76,356)
At 31 March 2018	-	103,754	58,792	2,498	256,873	114,604	124,569	661,090
Net book value								
At 31 March 2018	3,020,478	192	677,438	1,102	105,472	40,322	26,346	3,871,350
At 31 March 2017	3,020,478	194	692,163	1,257	122,441	39,866	40,471	3,916,870

Charity

	Nature reserves		Freehold property	Leasehold property	Plant and equipment	Vehicles	Office equipment	Total
	Freehold	Leasehold						
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost								
At 1 April 2017	3,020,478	103,946	736,230	3,600	343,500	147,604	184,277	4,539,635
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	13,718	2,810	16,528
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,000)	(6,396)	(69,242)	(76,638)
At 31 March 2018	3,020,478	103,946	736,230	3,600	342,500	154,926	117,845	4,479,525
Depreciation								
At 1 April 2017	-	103,752	44,067	2,343	225,730	107,738	150,604	634,234
Charge for the year	-	2	14,725	155	17,665	13,106	13,635	59,288
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(874)	(6,240)	(69,242)	(76,356)
At 31 March 2018	-	103,754	58,792	2,498	242,521	114,604	94,997	617,166
Net book value								
At 31 March 2018	3,020,478	192	677,438	1,102	99,979	40,322	22,848	3,862,359
At 31 March 2017	3,020,478	194	692,163	1,257	117,770	39,866	33,673	3,905,401

Heritage fixed assets

Heritage assets are represented as freehold nature reserves above.

A summary of transactions relating to heritage assets over the last five years is as follows:

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of acquisitions	-	14,709	63,670	-	-
Value of donated assets	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount of disposals	-	54,938	-	-	508
Proceeds of disposals	-	120,709	-	-	508
Value of impairment	-	-	-	-	-

12. Investments

Group

	Listed securities £	Cash holdings £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Cost				
At 1 April 2017	632,668	15,046	647,714	651,368
Additions	84,735	92,524	177,259	280,865
Disposals	(75,703)	(90,701)	(166,404)	(284,519)
At 31 March 2018	641,700	16,869	658,569	647,714
Revaluations				
Unrealised gains at 1 April 2017	103,679	-	103,679	11,874
Net gains arising on revaluations in the year	6,482	-	6,482	93,293
Disposals/reverse revaluations	(16,820)	-	(16,820)	(1,488)
Unrealised gains at 31 March 2018	93,341	-	93,341	103,679
Net book value at 31 March 2018	735,041	16,869	751,910	751,393

Charity

	Subsidiary company £	Listed securities £	Cash holdings £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Cost					
At 1 April 2017	3	632,668	15,046	647,717	651,371
Additions	-	84,735	92,524	177,259	280,865
Disposals	-	(75,703)	(90,701)	(166,404)	(284,519)
At 31 March 2018	3	641,700	16,869	658,572	647,717
Revaluations					
Unrealised gains at 1 April 2017	-	103,679	-	103,679	11,874
Net gains arising on revaluations in the year	-	6,482	-	6,482	93,293
Disposals/reverse revaluations	-	(16,820)	-	(16,820)	(1,488)
Unrealised gains at 31 March 2018	-	93,341	-	93,341	103,679
Net book value at 31 March 2018	3	735,041	16,869	751,913	751,396

At 31 March 2018 the charity had one wholly owned subsidiary, SWT (Sales) Limited. The charity owns 100% of the company's ordinary share capital. The principal activity of SWT (Sales) Limited is that of environmental consultancy work (see note 20).

13. Stocks

	Group		Trust	
	2018 £	2017 £	2018 £	2017 £
Stocks	2,286	2,707	2,286	2,707
Work in Progress	6,740	4,514	-	-
	9,026	7,221	2,286	2,707

14. Debtors

	Group		Trust	
	2018 £	2017 £	2018 £	2017 £
Trade debtors	87,846	102,475	32,656	33,097
Other debtors	33,713	132,959	33,713	132,959
Prepayments and accrued income	404,661	431,517	403,799	430,093
Amounts owed by subsidiary company	-	-	107,593	80,361
	526,220	666,951	577,761	676,510

Other debtors includes £nil (2017: £11,000) due after more than one year.

The amount owed by subsidiary company represents the balance on the current account due from SWT (Sales) Limited.

15. Creditors

	Group		Trust	
	2018 £	2017 £	2018 £	2017 £
Amount falling due within one year				
Trade creditors	66,189	134,503	62,410	120,606
Other creditors and accruals	73,515	57,295	71,926	56,314
	139,704	191,798	134,336	176,920

16. Operating lease commitments

Minimum lease payments on non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	Group		Trust	
	2018 £	2017 £	2018 £	2017 £
Within one year	12,000	11,983	12,000	11,983
Due one to five years	25,903	30,036	25,903	30,036
	37,903	42,019	37,903	42,019

17. Statement of funds

	At 1 April 2017 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Investment gains £	At 31 March 2018 £
Unrestricted funds						
Income fund	280,553	1,819,482	(1,878,034)	114,834	6,482	343,317
Total unrestricted funds	280,553	1,819,482	(1,878,034)	114,834	6,482	343,317
Designated funds						
Opportunity reserve	150,000	-	-	(150,000)	-	-
Nature reserves	1,386,823	-	(2)	-	-	1,386,821
Operating freehold	692,163	-	-	(14,725)	-	677,438
Nature reserve development	38,830	-	(4,476)	-	-	34,354
Development reserve	765,336	116,862	(41,903)	49,891	-	890,186
Total designated funds	3,033,152	116,862	(46,381)	(114,834)	-	2,988,799
Restricted funds						
Inspiring people and communities	49,788	212,415	(189,766)	-	-	72,437
Rebuilding ecological networks	46,874	68,759	(98,176)	-	-	17,457
Standing up for nature	32,911	-	(28,437)	-	-	4,474
Nature reserves	97,506	162,837	(78,619)	-	-	181,724
Total restricted funds	227,079	444,011	(394,998)	-	-	276,092
Endowment funds						
Nature reserves	1,633,849	-	-	-	-	1,633,849
Total endowment funds	1,633,849	-	-	-	-	1,633,849
Total funds	5,174,633	2,380,355	(2,319,413)	-	6,482	5,242,057

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Certain unrestricted funds have been designated by the Trustees for specific purposes.

Designated funds

The designated opportunity reserve fund represents funds that the charity has set aside in order to support a vital piece of conservation work for which no other funds are available.

The designated nature reserve fund represents funds that the charity has applied to the purchase of nature reserves.

The designated operating freehold fund relates to the purchase of the Trust's headquarters, a freehold property in Taunton.

The designated nature reserve development fund represents proceeds from the sale of land during 2016-17 which the charity has set aside specifically for re-investment in nature reserves.

The designated development reserve fund represents funds that the charity has set aside for investment in future projects and opportunities.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds that are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Endowment funds

The nature reserves endowment fund represents amounts received specifically for, and expended on, the purchase of nature reserves.

18. Transfers between funds

	Total 2018 £
Designated funds	
Opportunity reserve	(150,000)
Operating freehold reserve	(14,725)
Development reserve	49,891
Unrestricted funds	114,834
	-

The designated operating freehold reserve transfer represents the net movement in the book value of the Trust's freehold property and main headquarters in Taunton.

The designated development reserve transfer represents designated funds expended during the year on Council approved projects and includes investment in Fundraising, a General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) project and general running costs.

The designated opportunity reserve transfer represents the combining of the opportunity fund with the designated development reserve, both of which have the same purpose.

19. Analysis of group net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Tangible & heritage fixed assets	173,242	2,064,259	-	1,633,849	3,871,350
Investments	717,556	34,354	-	-	751,910
Current assets	92,023	890,186	276,092	-	1,258,301
Current liabilities	(139,704)	-	-	-	(139,704)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(499,800)	-	-	-	(499,800)
	343,317	2,988,799	276,092	1,633,849	5,242,057

20. Subsidiary company

	2018	2017
	£	£
Turnover	326,961	264,038
Cost of sales	183,292	159,955
Gross profit	143,669	104,083
Administrative expenses	60,426	41,609
	83,243	62,474
Other operating income	2,200	-
Net profit	85,443	62,474
Taxation	-	-
Net profit after taxation	85,443	62,474
Paid under gift aid to Trust	85,443	62,474
	-	-
Profit brought forward	152	152
Retained profit carried forward	152	152

Turnover includes a charge of £46,917 (2017: £428) for services to the Trust.

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:

Assets	113,327	96,304
Liabilities	(113,172)	(96,149)
Funds	155	155

21. Contingent liabilities

During 2014–15 the Trust received notification that the Section 75 clause in the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme had been breached due to there no longer being any active members in the defined contribution section of the scheme. During 2016 it was confirmed that four other Wildlife Trusts have also breached the Section 75 clause. The value of Somerset's debt has not yet been established. At present the Trust continues to pay contributions in accordance with the previously agreed Recovery Plan as detailed in note 10.

22. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2018	2017
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	67,424	(17,426)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	63,364	69,617
(Gains) on investments	(6,482)	(93,293)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(19,843)	(17,742)
Loss/(Profit) on disposal of fixed assets	282	(65,116)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability less payments	(34,700)	177,700
Decrease in debtors	140,731	74,355
(Increase) in stocks and work in progress	(1,805)	(3,169)
(Decrease) in creditors	(52,094)	(92,630)
Net cash provided by operating activities	156,877	32,296

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2018 £	2017 £
Cash at bank and in hand	152,794	139,178
Deposit accounts (less than 3 months)	587,130	434,364
	739,924	573,542

24. Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2017

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds General £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2017 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	696,272	223,783	144,743	-	1,064,798
Charitable activities:						
Inspiring people and communities	3	1,060	-	544,254	-	545,314
Rebuilding ecological networks	3	101,743	-	97,456	-	199,199
Nature reserves	3	527,957	-	138,805	-	666,762
Other trading activities	4	347,493	-	-	-	347,493
Investments	5	17,742	-	-	-	17,742
Total		1,692,267	223,783	925,258	-	2,841,308
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		816,733	-	-	-	816,733
Charitable activities:						
Inspiring people and communities		232,310	7,558	556,737	-	796,605
Rebuilding ecological networks		242,037	12,539	132,231	-	386,807
Standing up for nature		40,279	12,665	17,665	-	70,609
Nature reserves		676,462	37,047	167,764	-	881,273
Total	6	2,007,821	69,809	874,397	-	2,952,027
Net gains on investments		93,293	-	-	-	93,293
Net income/(expenditure)		(222,261)	153,974	50,861	-	(17,426)
Transfers between funds		66,586	(133,757)	67,171	-	-
Net movement in funds		(155,675)	20,217	118,032	-	(17,426)
Reconciliation of funds						
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2016		436,228	3,012,935	109,047	1,633,849	5,192,059
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2017		280,553	3,033,152	227,079	1,633,849	5,174,633

Gifts and donations

We would like to thank all our members and donors for their generous support which helps us to protect the county's wildlife and wild places, including the nature reserves in our care.

Legacies

Somerset Wildlife Trust is grateful for gifts in wills received during the year from the estates of the following individuals.

John Cover Bickham
Michael John Brookes
Elizabeth Mary Manners
Doris May Peacock
David Christopher Ricketts
Leslie Sharpe-Barraclough
Bernard Storer
Leslie John Wallis

Patrons

We thank our founding Patrons for their support for our Patrons' scheme.

Dudley Cheesman
Richard Denton-Cox
John Deverell CBE
James Hughes-Hallett
Jean Mantle
Rohan and Lily Masson-Taylor
Caroline Rathbone
Tim and Dede Sanderson
Patricia Stainton and Robin Levien
Angela Yeoman OBE

Corporate members and partners

We thank the following companies which have supported us as members and partners this year.

A C Mole & Sons
Berry's Coaches
Bridgwater and Taunton College
Brimsmore Gardens (The Gardens Group)
EDF Energy
Golledge Electronics
Hi-Line Contractors SWT Ltd
John Wainwright & Co. Ltd
PC Comms Ltd
Porter Dodson
Southern Co-op
Wildlife Travel Ltd
Wessex Water
Vine House Farm
Viridor Waste Management

Grant-making bodies, landfill operators and environmental trusts

We would like to thank the following and, in particular, Heritage Lottery Fund for their generous support of our work in 2017-18.

Aggregate Industries
Biffa Award
DEFRA
Ewing and Haines Charitable Trust
Forestry Commission
Hanson in the Community
Hawk & Owl Trust
Heritage Lottery Fund
Joseph Strong Frazer Trust
Mendip Hills AONB
Natural England
Ninesquare Charitable Trust
People's Postcode Lottery
Peter De Haan Charitable Trust
Plantlife
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts
RSPB
Somerset Community Foundation
Somerset County Council
Stephen Clark Charitable Trust
Sustainable Eel Group
Tesco Bags of Help
The Blair Foundation
The Conservation Foundation
Viridor Credits Ltd



Key people and advisers

Patron

Simon King OBE

President

Stephen Moss

Vice-Presidents

Lord Ewen Cameron of Dillington

Dudley Cheesman

Ralph Clark

Roger Martin

Chris Sperring MBE

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company (“the Trust”) are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law. The Trustees on the date of approval of this report, all of whom were members for the whole of the financial year in question unless stated otherwise, were as follows:

Chair

Patricia Stainton

Vice-Chair

Sarah Nason

Treasurer

John Scotford CBE

Elected Trustees

Matthew Bell

Valerie Brown (appointed 21 October 2017)

Bob Corns (resigned 11 August 2017)

Richard Denton-Cox (resigned 21 October 2017)

Simon Hicks

Philip Holms

Helen Lawy

Sarah Nason

Stephen Newman

Terence Rowell

Nicky Saunter (resigned 21 October 2017)

John Scotford CBE

Patricia Stainton

Martin Stanley (resigned 24 May 2018)

Melville Trimble

Matthew Trimmer (appointed 21 October 2017)

Co-opted Trustees

Richard Atkin (appointed 7 March 2018)

Robin Beacham (resigned 21 October 2017)

Graeme Mitchell (appointed 9 April 2018)

Senior Leadership Team

Katie Arber, Director of Fundraising and Marketing

Michele Bowe, Director of Conservation

Simon Nash, Chief Executive Officer

Tim Youngs, Director of Land Management (to 18 August 2017)

Advisers

Senior Statutory Auditor

Christine Glover MA FCA, A C Mole & Sons, Stafford House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2PX

Bankers

Lloyds Bank, 31 Fore Street, Taunton, Somerset TA1 1HN

CCLA, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET

Solicitors

Porter Dodson, The Quad, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2PX

Investment managers

Rathbone Greenbank Investments, 10 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4NT

Land agents

Greenslade Taylor Hunt, 1 High Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1QF

Somerset Wildlife Trust is a registered charity

Charity number 238372

Company number 818162

Registered office

34 Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AW



Somerset Wildlife Trust

34 Wellington Road
Taunton
Somerset TA1 5AW

01823 652400

www.somersetwildlife.org

Charity number 238372
Company number 818162