

IMPACT REPORT

2023/
2024



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**



Dear Trust members and supporters,

Writing my first annual review since becoming Chair of the Council in October, I am pleased to report that, against a backdrop of ongoing economic challenges in the UK, the Trust remains in good financial shape and has continued to deliver a wide range

of outputs and services over the course of the past year. Members have not only supported us financially but have also added their voices to ours and taken action to stand up for nature; this was particularly evident in the number of people who answered our call to help defend Tiddesley Wood nature reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, against unsuitable housing development on adjacent land.

Getting one in four people to take action for nature is a principal goal in the Trust's Strategy 2023–2030. During this first year of the strategy period, we were awarded funding for our largest ever community project: Wilder Worcestershire – Neighbourhoods Nurturing Nature. Focusing on the River Salwarpe to River Severn corridor, the Trust will work with a range of community and youth groups to improve spaces for nature. Engagement with schools is a key aspect in many of our community projects and this complements our ongoing programme of visits, assemblies and art sessions.



Green Farm, Paul Lane

Another key strategic goal is to have 30% of land managed for nature by 2030 and the Trust continues, through the efforts of its reserve teams and practical conservation volunteers, to manage upwards of 1,250 hectares of land for the benefit of nature. I am pleased to say that the Trust will be launching a fundraising appeal shortly to expand and protect Hanley Dingle nature reserve, Worcestershire's hidden rainforest, as part of this effort.

Connectivity for nature in the wider landscape is a key element in several of the Trust's projects, including the Natural Networks programme that has been successfully extended to 2025. Severn Treescapes: Wye to Wyre sees Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trusts working together with landowners and farmers to create a 60-mile corridor of enhanced tree cover across the three counties.

Through the provision of advice to landowners and farmers, the Trust is assisting with the management of over 400 square kilometres of land – a quarter of the county. Much of this advisory work is supported through Natural England's Facilitation Fund or through our partnership with Severn Trent. Working in alliance is essential for restoration or enhancement of the natural environment at the landscape scale. During the past year, an ambitious and exciting collaboration involving ten wildlife trusts – Severn and Wye Nature – has started to gain momentum.

Our third strategic goal is to sustain our future as an organisation and we have made good progress in several priority areas. This includes ongoing efforts to reduce our carbon footprint and the continued implementation of actions identified in the Trust's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion plan.

The Trust would not be able to fulfil its role of delivering benefits for nature without its members, volunteers, staff, trustees, membership recruitment team, funders, donors and partners. On behalf of the Trust Council, I offer sincere thanks to you for the role you play in moving us towards achieving our vision of a wilder Worcestershire with more nature everywhere, for everyone.

Christianne Tipping
Chair



Protecting wildlife where we live

Thanks to you

Our work in

2023/2024



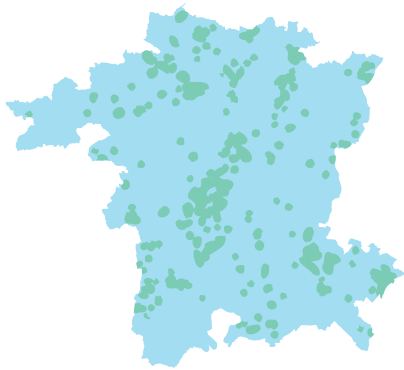
16 pairs of herons nesting at our Wilden Marsh nature reserve



21,000 people are members of the Trust



Grey heron, Eric Williams



Natural Networks 2 project has supported **46** groups across **77** sites providing advice to improve **93** hectares for wildlife so far



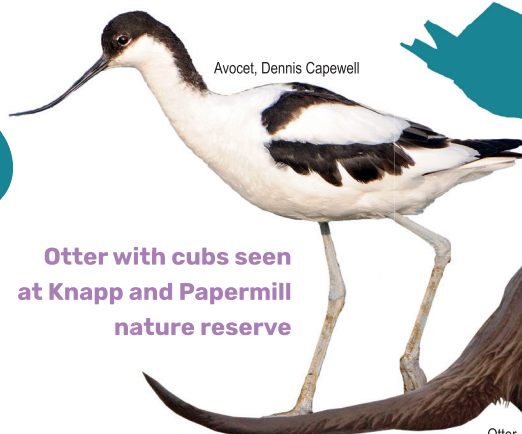
500 volunteers contributing over **50,000** hours of time

4 new practical conservation trainees trained during the year



New trees planted to expand Monkwood nature reserve for the first time in **300** years

68 adult avocets recorded on site



Avocet, Dennis Capewell

Otter with cubs seen at Knapp and Papermill nature reserve



4,000 children reached through our work with schools



Otter, Pete Walkden

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's income and expenditure in 2023–24

Income

Membership	717,360	28%
Legacies	354,468	14%
Grants	48,118	2%
Gift aid	164,307	6%
Donations	74,890	3%
Charitable activities	820,564	32%
Trading activities	223,288	9%
Investment income	103,140	4%
Other income	44,219	2%

Total income in 2023–24 **2,550,354**

Expenditure

Trading company	141,667	6%
Raising donations and legacies	575,891	23%
Charitable activities		
Education and communication	366,412	14%
Wider countryside	401,306	16%
Reserves	1,071,024	42%

Total expenditure in 2023–24 **2,556,300**

Financial performance

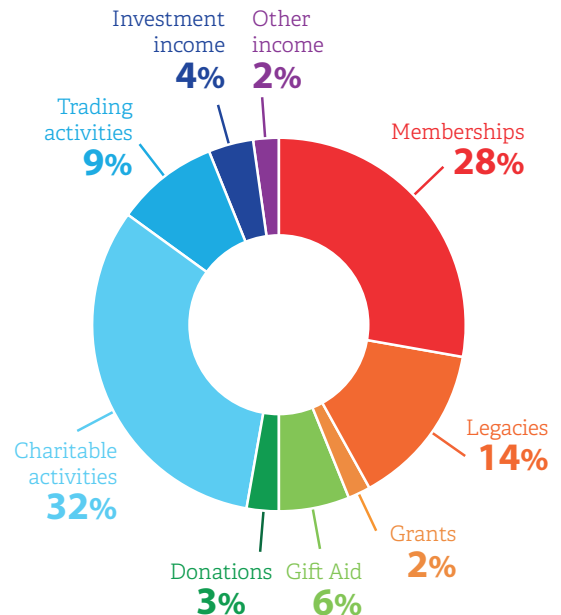
A deficit of £5,946 (2023: surplus of £601,529) was recorded in the year before gains and losses. After investment gains, the Trust made a surplus of £119,873. Net assets stand at £17,757,604 (2023: £17,637,731) of which £13,848,367 (2023: £13,729,315) represents the value of our nature reserves and other fixed assets, and £3,382,939 (2023: £3,268,658) the value of our investments. At 31 March 2024, £4,193,936 (2023: £3,895,072) was designated for use in conservation and development projects.

Independent Auditors' Report to the members and trustees of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

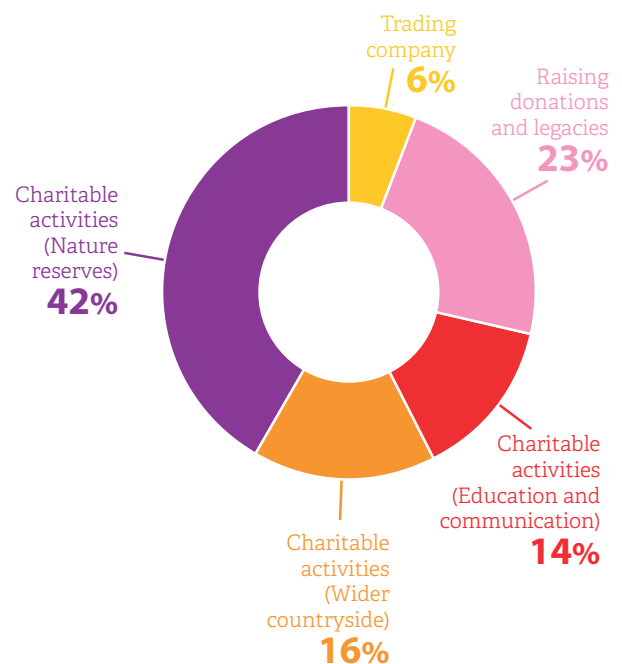
Due to the increasing length of Auditors' Reports required by today's accounting standards, it is not possible to include the report in this brief financial summary.

However, the Auditors' Report from Thorne Widgery is included in the Trust's published accounts, which will be available at or immediately after the Annual General Meeting. For the purposes of this Annual Review, the Trustees are pleased to confirm that the audit was successfully completed and the information in the Trustees' Annual Report, from which this information is extracted, is consistent with the financial statements.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's income in 2023–24
Total 2,550,354.00



Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's expenditure in 2023–24
Total 2,556,300.00



Members and Supporters

Thank you to all members, supporters and partners of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust who contribute to the future of wildlife in our county.

Legacies for wildlife

Gifts left to us in Wills have been critical for purchasing nature reserves, assisting with their development and for other specific uses as agreed by our Council of Trustees. We are indebted to those who have left gifts to the Trust this year:

Shirley Barnes
Valerie Barnett
Catherine Beresford
Gwendoline Cragg
Jane Edwards
William George
Cyril Hart
Philip Jackson
Ian Lennox
Daphne Maw
Eleanor Perks
Frank Round
Celia Underhill

We are also grateful for those who have donated to the Trust in memory of loved ones.

Grants and donations

Thank you to the organisations and individuals who have provided us with a grant or donation during the year. These include:

National Lottery Heritage Fund, Severn Waste Services, The Government's Species Recovery Fund, The Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund, Wildjac, Norman and Evelyn Proffitt Trust, OCM Business Systems Ltd.

WNCT Enterprises

This wholly owned independent company encompasses Worcestershire Wildlife Consultancy, which provides high quality independent ecological services to individuals and commercial clients. Profits from these services together with those from facilities hire and sales activities are covenanted directly to support the charitable activities of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

To find out more please visit www.worcestershirowildlifeconsultancy.org

Volunteers

Thank you to our 500 amazing volunteers who continue to help the Trust to deliver its mission in so many ways. Our volunteers provide at least 50,000 hours of volunteer time, the equivalent value of around £600,000 of time.

The Worcestershire Wildlife Medal 2024

The Worcestershire Wildlife Medal is awarded 'For dedicated services to nature conservation in Worcestershire'.

In 2024 the Worcestershire Wildlife Medal is awarded to:

Becky Lashley and Cody Levine.

Full citations for both Becky Lashley and Cody Levine are included in the Trust's summer magazine in 2024.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

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 [@WorcsWT](https://www.instagram.com/worcswt/)  www.instagram.com/worcswt/

Registered charity number 256618

A company limited by guarantee number 929644

Council, Officers & Staff at 31 March 2023

President

Harry Green MBE

Hon. Vice Presidents

Linda Butler

Tessa Carrick

Roger Jackson

Prof. Graham Martin

David Mortiboys

Mervyn Needham

Roger Pannell

Ron Stanton

Geoff Trevis

Council of Trustees

John Blakiston – Hon. Treasurer

Richard Cory

Andrew Forecast

Pat Gildea

Robert Gillmor – Hon. Secretary

Harry Green MBE – Hon. Officer

Christopher Greensmith – Hon. Officer for Conservation

Dr Peter Holmes

Tom Meikle

Andrew Muir

David Mortiboys – Vice Chair

Carrie Pawley

Peter Scriven

Christianne Tipping – Chair

Sandra Young – Hon. Officer for Resources

Staff Team

Rob Allen – Reserves Team Leader

Yasmina Ashcroft – Youth & Community Officer

Robin Bickley – Catchment Partnership Agriculture Advisor

Steven Bloomfield – Senior Conservation Officer – Planning

Becky Bradshaw-King – Senior Fundraising Officer

Becca Bratt – Natural Networks Officer

Andy Bucklitch – Practical Land Management Officer

Wendy Carter – Communications Lead

Romy Clarke – Catchment Partnership Agriculture Advisor

Moira Conn – Finance and Administration Assistant and Meetings and Conference Organiser

Caroline Corsie – Senior Land Advisor

Dominique Cragg – Western Reserves Officer

Kate Doyle – Senior Membership Officer

Joshua Evans – Consultancy Manager

Pauline Gardner – Administration Assistant

Joe Gillard – Volunteer Development Officer and Saving

Worcestershire's Heathlands Project Officer

Julie Grainger – Engagement Officer – Green Farm

Andrew Harris – Northern Reserves Officer

Elise Hill – Senior Membership Officer (Parental Leave

Cover)

Tomos Holloway – Southern Reserves Officer

Catharine Jarvis – Assistant Ecological Consultant

Tom Jenkins – Finance and Administration Manager

Joanna Kelly – Membership Officer

Shauna McLaren – Communications and Digital Officer

Nick Packham – Engagement Team Leader

Mike Perry – Head of Resources

Heather Pullin – Wilder Communities Hub Officer

Colin Raven – Director

Eleanor Reast – Eastern Reserves Officer

Jack Reeves – Climate Change and Wildlife Officer

Finley Reynolds – Natural Networks Officer

Ion Riley – Community Wildlife Warden

Marissa Ryland – Engagement Officer – Education

Becky Somers – Saving Worcestershire's Heathlands Project Officer

Caitlin Stewart – Fundraising Officer

Jasmine Walters – Farming and Wildlife Officer

Tom Watkins – Central Reserves Officer

Emily Williams – Catchment Partnership Agriculture Advisor

Helen Woodman – Head of Conservation