

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 00929644 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 256618

Report of the Trustees and
Consolidated Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023
for
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

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A05 24/11/2023 #56

COMPANIES HOUSE

Thorne Widgey Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
2 Wyevale Business Park
Kings Acre
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 7BS

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

The Objects for which the Trust is established for the public benefit are:

To advance, promote and further the conservation and protection of Nature Reserves which shall be owned, maintained, or managed by the Trust.

To restore, create, study and further the conservation of places of zoological, botanical, mycological, ecological, geological, or general scientific interest.

To promote, encourage and carry out study and research for the advancement of knowledge in the natural sciences, to make grants or donations for such purposes and to encourage and support the recording and publication of the useful results thereof.

To advance the education of the public in the principles and practices of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Trust is one of 46 independent local charities that co-operate across the whole of the UK and are known as The Wildlife Trusts. The Wildlife Trusts have agreed a shared Development Strategy for 2022-2030 which identifies the collective Purpose, Mission and key priorities, from which the Trust is developing a plan for itself (see Future Plans).

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

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

To meet the Trust's long-term objectives, annual management plans are prepared. These are approved by the Trustees together with the annual budgetary review. Shorter-term projects are also developed: the necessary resources are identified, costs budgeted, and timescales assessed. Where relevant, professional advice will be sought. Examples of such projects include major reserve acquisitions, reserve management, membership recruitment campaigns and temporary staff recruitment.

Monitoring and Review

All Trust programmes and projects have defined success criteria, and these are regularly monitored, initially by key operations staff as part of working assessment and then by the Trustees as part of the management reporting process. Any shortfalls in anticipated achievements are investigated and lessons learned for future programmes.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Nature Reserves

Nature reserves remain a core element of our conservation strategy. During the year, we have completed the purchase of 59 acres of land at Green Farm, adjacent to our Monkwood nature reserve. We are taking the opportunity to extend Monkwood for the first time in over 300 years through a series of meadows, trees and hedgerows that will benefit dormice, wood white butterflies, and much else. In addition to the biodiversity benefits, the project will also sequester carbon over time.

We were also able to acquire 32 acres of meadow and pasture at Romsley Manor Farm, south of Halesowen, a wonderful collection of grassland that have been less than ideally managed for number of years, and where a restoration plan is already being implemented to substantially improve their value for a range of wildlife.

All acquisitions are considered against a rigorous set of criteria which ensure that where land is purchased it will have the greatest long-term impact for Worcestershire's wildlife and for people. Our overall approach can be summarised as "Bigger, Better, More Joined Up".

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE **Charitable activities (continued)**

With almost 3000 acres to care for, over 80 sites, our reserves represent a major asset for wildlife, but also a major and growing commitment for the Trust's resources to deliver a plethora of tasks across all of the sites - maintenance, conservation, infrastructure and facilities, survey and monitoring, volunteer support etc. A huge amount of ongoing work is delivered by volunteers and contractors, led by our excellent team of Reserve Officers.

At Dropping Well Farm between Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn, 95 acres of farmland purchased the previous year, we have begun the heathland restoration to benefit species such as stonechat and common lizard. A community project linked to this site is underway to ensure as many people as possible can understand and appreciate this amazing area. This important site connects over 600 acres of land managed as nature reserves across our own sites and adjoining land managed by Wyre Forest District Council.

Conservation outside our nature reserves

Working with other landowners across the county is the second core element of our conservation strategy.

We have continued to grow conservation activities outside of our reserves. This often involves working with farmers and landowners and is used to demonstrate best practice, particularly through special projects we are running to promote wild pollinators (through a combination of sensitive land management techniques and the provision of nesting sites) and soil health (through a long-term programme of building organic content and fertility using natural fertilisers).

This work remains at similar levels to the previous year and has been very busy and productive such that around 40,000 hectares (100,000 acres), which represents around a quarter of the county, is influenced by our advisory team. Much of this increase is due to externally funded partnership projects; The Severn Trent Water Environment Project, Natural Networks, and Water Environment Projects and the recently commenced Treescapes Project.

Our own farm at Lower Smite Farm, and the nature reserves continue to act as demonstration sites for a variety of audiences.

We also continue to influence development by engagement in the planning system, especially involving green infrastructure and through advocacy work. Specialist input into planning policy and local plans remains a vital part of our work, as does selective input into planning case work.

Engagement

To complement our conservation strategy, we run a comprehensive engagement programme. Fundamental to our work is the provision of opportunities for adults and children alike to experience and value wildlife and the environment. During the year much of this work continued to be delivered using internet resources, although some face-to-face activities were able to resume.

Our community work has expanded significantly. In addition to existing community projects linked to Dropping Well Farm, our Wilder Worcestershire project launched this year, funded by the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund, the Next-door Nature project, working with youth and community organisations, focusing on areas of Bromsgrove and Redditch, started in summer 2022. All projects aim to reach new audiences and to remove barriers for people to engage with and benefit from nature where they live. A further community project based at our new reserve at Green Farm was also initiated. Additional staff capacity has been put in place to support and co-ordinate these projects.

Promoting awareness of wildlife through the media, both traditional and digital, is an increasingly important way of engaging with the wider public. Interaction via social media has continued at much higher levels than previously and this has been the main platform for our advocacy and campaigning work.

The Trust also continued the implementation of strategies to deliver its policy commitments to increase diversity throughout its work, and to be at least carbon neutral by 2030.

Volunteering remains crucial to every aspect of the Trust's work, and new initiatives have been put in place to rebuild and diversify our volunteer workforce following the pandemic, which are already bearing fruit with record numbers now volunteering.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities (continued)

Fundraising activities

Although membership numbers were flat, income increased. Overall giving by members is fundamental to our operations now and in the future, through subscriptions, donations, and legacies. We shall continue to focus resources on membership development - recruiting new members, retaining existing members, and providing high quality information and communications. Members are also the single biggest source for volunteers.

New legacy notifications and receipts remained at over £200,000, the same as the previous year. Legacy receipts were designated to the Conservation Development Fund for Capital and Special Projects. The Trust continued to promote the importance of legacies and the projects that they have funded.

Normal fundraising was able to resume in earnest following the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the appointment of additional staff capacity to lead this work. Other income received for specific capital and major projects included grants from landfill operators through the Landfill Communities Fund, charitable trusts, and corporate supporters, The National Lottery Heritage Fund and The Peoples Postcode Lottery. We continue to enjoy a high success rate in fund-raising bids despite only having a small team working on these.

Despite challenging trading conditions, the trading company made a significant profit of over £80,000 which was covenanted to the Charity.

Volunteers

The Trust relies on dedicated volunteers across the organisation without whom the Trust would not be able to function. We are now supported by almost 500 volunteers. Some volunteer occasionally, some each week. 80% of our volunteers are involved in practical conservation work on nature reserves. The Trust benefits from volunteer work parties for specific reserves, and teams of roving volunteers who work across the county in reserves where work is required.

Volunteers also run our local groups across the county. They organise walks, talks, and events and raise funds for the Trust. The Trust also benefits from office-based volunteers. These include our volunteer receptionists, volunteers who help with school visits, school assemblies and public events, and volunteers who help with bird food sales or assist with our planning work. The Trust also benefits from volunteers who work remotely, including graphic designers and photographers.

Investment performance

The performance of the investment portfolio is measured by reference to several relevant indices, including WMA Balanced, FTSE 100, FTSE All World and the ARC Charity Benchmark. During the year income amounted to £83,475 (2022: £78,386). The total portfolio value at the beginning of the year was £3,557,130 (2022: £3,607,367). Net losses at 31st March 2023 were £274,626 (2022: £43,089). The total portfolio value at the year-end was £3,268,658 (2022: £3,557,130).

Investment powers and policy

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charity has the power to make any investment, which the Trustees see fit, subject to the Trustee Act 2000. The objectives of the Trusts Investment Policy are: to ensure the creation of sufficient income and capital growth, to enable the charity to carry out its purpose consistently year-by-year, with due and proper consideration for future needs, and the maintenance and, if possible, enhancement of the value of the invested funds.

The Investment Committee meet quarterly to receive reports from the Stockbrokers and to review performance. Their reports and any recommendations for changes in policy are presented to Trustees. The current policy is reasonably defensive, with equal capital and income growth objectives. All investments are made on the advice of our Stockbrokers, who attend Investment Committee meetings at least biannually. The appointment of the Trust's Stockbrokers is reviewed annually.

The Trustees follow Charity Commission guidance on investment, including that on ethical investment.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE **Charitable activities (continued)**

Public benefit

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

The main benefits to the public are:

- Caring for over 80 nature reserves (woods, heaths, pools, marshes, and meadows of national and international importance),
- Protecting endangered species such as otters, dormice, and butterflies,
- Restoring and recreating wildlife habitats on derelict and agricultural land,
- Campaigning to prevent damaging developments,
- Helping local authorities, organisations, and individuals to protect and create places for the county's wildlife,
- Inspiring thousands of children through our work with schools and other organisations,
- Working with local communities to encourage appreciation and enjoyment of our natural environment,
- Encouraging and supporting over 400 volunteers involved in all aspects of our work.

The Trustees are of the opinion that the preservation of natural life and the promotion of the study of natural life are intended to benefit the public generally and many of the Nature Reserves managed by the Charity are open to the public to visit free of charge. In assessing the public benefit, the Trustees do not believe that any detriment or harm is caused by either the aims or the actions of the Charity.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Review of the financial position at year end

At the year-end total funds amounts to £17,637,731 (2022: £17,310,828), of this balance restricted funds amounted to £8,240,802 (2022: £7,756,339).

At the year-end £3,895,072 (2022: £4,017,575) of reserves were held in the designated fund. The purpose of these funds is for use on conservation and development projects as part of the Trust's strategic plan.

Included on the consolidated balance sheet at the yearend are tangible fixed assets of £13,729,315 (2022: £13,124,415) and investments of £3,268,658 (2022: £3,557,130).

Free reserves at the year end, being total reserves less any restricted and designated fund and fixed and investment asset held, amounted to £416,558 deficit (2022: £390,624 deficit). A further £484,687 (2022: £317,754) was held in current assets within designated funds at the year-end.

Financial effect of significant events

Legacy income in the year was affected by ongoing delays in the probate system.

The increased rate of inflation has impacted on the costs of procured goods and services, and staff salary levels.

Factors likely to affect future financial performance or position

The changing nature of land management payments will mean current grants will continue to decline.

Membership income has grown modestly in the year. We have a target to substantially increase this over the next 5 years, which will depend upon the overall economic situation and our ability to recruit actively.

The Trust is planning for a period of 2-3 years when net deficits will be accrued on general operational costs in order to retain the capacity and capability of the core staff upon which current delivery and future growth will depend.

The Trust has a policy of retaining net cash reserves at a minimum level of 6 months operating costs which is of the order of £800,000. This does not take account of any future legacy income which has been in the range of £100,000 to £500,000 per annum over the last five years.

Taking these factors into account the level of risk to the Trust as a going concern is low but rigorous planning and monitoring will still be required.

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

Principal Funding Sources

Year-to-year, Trust income from membership (the income received monthly or annually from our members), remains our most important source of income that supports the revenue costs of the Trust. This income enables the trust to deliver its core functions. The Trust benefits from Gift Aid, on membership income and other donations, which also plays a vital role in supporting the Trust's activities.

The Trust benefits from gifts left in Wills. These legacies are added to our Conservation Development Fund. This income is not used for day-to-day expenditure, and is ring fenced for special projects as agreed by our Council of Trustees. This includes land acquisition and major capital expenditure such as restoration and maintenance (e.g. replacement fencing) on nature reserves.

The Trust receives Basic Payment Scheme income for its land holdings, and Countryside Stewardship income for specific work we are undertaking on a range of nature reserves. This work supports the significant work required for the ongoing management of our nature reserves.

We receive donations, large and small, throughout the year. These include in-memorial donations, donations from our local groups, and other donations. These donations support the revenue costs of the organisation and support our general work unless specified for a purpose.

Charitable Trusts and Foundations support our work in varying ways. Some provide an annual grant for general use, others provide funding for specific purposes, including land acquisition. The Trust has benefitted significantly from Landfill Communities Fund operators. These organisations have supported land acquisitions and ongoing reserve management. The Trust has received income from the Heritage Lottery Fund which continues to be an important funder. They have funded a land acquisition and associated community engagement projects.

We run an important project working with a range of farmers. This Facilitation Fund, provided by Defra, supports this vital work with landowners beyond our nature reserves. We continue to receive income from Severn Trent Water to work with landowners in priority catchments to improve water quality.

The Trust also benefits from trading income, particularly through our trading subsidiary, WNCT Enterprises Ltd where the income is generated from ecological consultancy, bird food sales, sales of goods and commercial room hire. The Trust also generates income from school visits (a subsidised charge), talks and events.

Financial Reserves policy

The Trustees regularly review the level of reserves available (both unrestricted and restricted) and have considered the balance between the need to use some reserves to take advantage of key opportunities to advance the work and development of the organisation, and to ensure that a secure financial base is maintained.

Partly due to legacy income the Trust's financial reserves continued to grow during the year. This has enabled the commencement and/or completion of several key capital projects, more of which are planned.

'Free reserves' stood at a deficit of £416,558 (2022: £390,624) at the year end. However, a further £484,687 (2022: £317,754) was held in current assets within designated funds. Of this additional sum, the trustees have agreed a policy that a minimum of 6 months expenditure of the charity will be retained to ensure the secure financial base is maintained.

FUTURE PLANS

A Wilder Worcestershire, the Trust's Development Strategy covering the period 2023 to 2030, based on a development strategy for The Wildlife Trusts as a whole, has been approved for implementation.

Our Vision: *A wilder Worcestershire - more nature everywhere, for everyone.*

Our Mission: *To lead nature's recovery through community action.*

The Strategic Goals in TWT Development Strategy are:

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

Our 10-point plan to achieve nature's recovery and a Wilder Worcestershire:

The strategy identifies the priorities for action between 2023 and 2026 for each element of the 10-point plan and for which we shall establish a monitoring programme to inform the annual strategy review process.

1. Nature in recovery - 30% of land in recovery for nature by 2030.

- Ensure our nature reserves are places where wildlife thrives.
- Build bigger, wilder, connected landscapes and townscapes for wildlife and for people.
- Demonstrate how restoring nature can deliver broader environmental and other benefits.

2. Action for nature - One in four people taking action for nature by 2030.

- Develop communications to be bolder and transformational.
- Influence decision making to prioritise nature.
- Engage and support diverse local communities to lead action for nature.
- Connect people with nature.

Sustaining our future - More diversity, more funding, carbon zero by 2030.

- Continue to grow and diversify funding streams and other resources for our work.
- Ensure we are a values-led, inclusive organisation, where all achieve their potential.
- Develop clear and consistent evidence-based policies.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Trust is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Trustees are appointed by the members at the annual general meeting. Additional Trustees may be co-opted by the existing board of trustees until the next annual general meeting, taking into account the way in which their skills will supplement and enhance those already available to the board.

Organisational structure

The Trustees meet regularly to administer the Charity and have delegated its day-to-day management to a Director of Operations, who is supported by a team of paid staff working with teams of volunteers.

Induction and training of new trustees

All new Trustees receive induction training. Further training for Trustees is considered annually.

Key management remuneration

The Trustees review the pay and remuneration of key management staff annually and normally increase pay levels in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the Charity, the Trustees benchmark against pay levels in other wildlife trusts of a similar size.

Related parties

The Trust is affiliated to The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT), a registered Charity that acts as an umbrella group for county wildlife trusts and provides co-ordination of activities and campaigning at a UK level.

Included within other debtors is an amount due from South-West Wildlife Fundraising Ltd (SWWFL), a company which the Trust has invested in to boost memberships.

Further details of related party transactions are included within note 24.

Risk Management

The Trustees review annually the Charity's principal areas of operations covering Governance and Management, Operations, Financial, Environmental and External Factors, and Compliance (Law and Regulation), and consider the major risks arising in each of these areas.

In addition, regular reviews of all Trust policies have continued during the year to ensure that the Charity maintains good governance. A Business Continuity Plan was prepared in 2019 and reviewed in 2022.

Overall, the level of risk to the Charity is considered relatively low. The areas that were identified to be of highest potential consequence included:

IT systems failure: Much of the Charity's work depends upon IT in some form. In 2021 a review of IT systems and needs was undertaken, which has resulted in a substantial upgrade to hardware, software and security, all of which should reduce risk in this area.

Reduced profitability of trading subsidiary: As retailing and service provision both become more competitive, profit margins are becoming squeezed. Performance and market conditions are regularly reviewed by the subsidiary board. In 2022 a new business plan was prepared for the consultancy business, and the firewood operation was terminated in 2022 as future investment requirements could not be justified. Commercial room lettings are now growing. A process to review and identify other trading and business opportunities has been initiated in 2023.

Dependency on income sources: Key sources are reviewed at least annually. This includes membership recruitment, land management and project grants, events, work with schools, environmental consultancy, and commercial lettings. Contingency arrangements to deal with these impacts have been implemented, to mitigate the financial impacts wherever possible.

Employment issues: The Charity is responsible for a substantial current deficit on an historic final salary pension scheme. Contributions are being made through a ten-year recovery plan designed to reduce the deficit and the trustees have set aside a sum from its reserves to cover the current deficit total. With increasing numbers of staff, the Charity is more exposed to potential disputes and the challenges of recruiting and retaining staff. To mitigate these risks, professional HR advisors are employed to provide support in this area, and the terms and conditions of staff are reviewed on a regular basis. All staff have now settled into a hybrid working regime.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Volunteers are vital to every aspect of the Charity's work, but the age profile of those volunteers means that there is an urgent need to attract and retain younger volunteers. Since 2017 the Charity has employed a Volunteer Development Officer to tackle this challenge. Recruitment over the last 12 months has resulted in a larger and more diverse pool of almost 500 volunteers.

Changes to government policy: The consequences of Brexit on land management policy and land management grants will affect our own land (managed as nature reserves) and our work with private landowners. The Trust has contributed to national advocacy work that seeks to influence future policy and funding and has mobilised public support in government consultations. Whilst the impacts are some years in the future the Charity continues to look at alternative funding models for land management.

Compliance with changing legislation: This particularly applies to the new General Data Protection Regulation. Policies and protocols, to look at future arrangements and needs, to minimise risk in this area are kept under annual review. Policies and procedures on Safeguarding are being further reviewed and updated. A voluntary statement on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery is in place.

Subsidiary Undertaking

The Charity wholly owns W.N.C.T. Enterprises Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales. W.N.C.T. Enterprises Limited performs wildlife consultancy services, arranges the hiring of rooms at Lower Smite Farm and sells woodland projects and other merchandise. During the year the company made a profit £80,014 of £1,910 (2022: loss of £1,910), of which £78,443 (2022: £Nil) was given by way of a deed of covenant to the Charity.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
00929644 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
256618

Registered office
Lower Smite Farm
Smite Hill
Hindlip
Worcester
WR3 8SZ

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Prof G R Martin | Vice Chairman |
| Mr R J Gillmor | |
| Mr G H Green MBE | |
| Dr P R Holmes | |
| Mrs P M Morris | |
| Mr D J Mortiboys | Chairman |
| Mr M D Needham | |
| Mr R W D Pannell | |
| Miss S D Young | |
| Mr R Cory | Honorary Secretary |
| Mr PJ Scriven | |
| Mr J Blakiston | Honorary Treasurer |
| Mr C J N Greensmith | |
| Mr A Forecast | |
| Mrs M P Gildea | |
| Mr T C C Meikle | |
| Mrs C J Tipping | |

The directors of the charitable company (the Charity) are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.

The Charity is limited by guarantee and does not have any issued share capital. There is therefore no beneficial interest to disclose for the above directors.

Director of Operations

Mr C A Raven

Company Secretary

Mr R A Cory

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (continued)

Auditors

Thorne Widgey Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
2 Wyevale Business Park
Kings Acre
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 7BS

Solicitors

Whatley Weston & Fox
16 The Tything
Worcester
WR1 1HG

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Plc
112 High Street
Bromsgrove
B61 8EZ

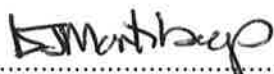
Stockbrokers

Canaccord
Saggar House
Princes Drive
Worcester
WR1 2PG

AUDITORS

The auditors, Thorne Widgey Accountancy Ltd, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 24/10/23 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
D J Mortiboy - Trustee

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the group and charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on24/10/23..... and signed on its behalf by:


.....
D J Mortiboys - Trustee

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (the 'parent company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement 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 (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The 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 Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the group and charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities set out on page 11, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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

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

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations - ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- o Enquiring of trustees, the finance committee and inspection of policy documentation as to the Charity's high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- o Reading Trustees' meetings and finance committee minutes.
- o Considering performance targets for management.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, and taking into account our overall knowledge of the control environment, we perform procedures to address the risk of management override of controls, in particular the risk that management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries. On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition because the revenue is non-judgemental and straightforward, with limited opportunity for manipulation.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks. We performed procedures including identifying journal entries to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation. These included those posted by finance management/ those posted and approved by the same user/ those posted to unusual accounts.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to non-compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, and through discussion with management (as required by auditing standards) and discussed with management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Firstly, the Charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation, taxation legislation and the Charities Act legislation and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the Charity is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation or the loss of the Charity's license to operate. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: health and safety, anti-bribery, employment law, data protection, anti-money laundering and specific areas of other legislation recognising the nature of the Charity's activities.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of management, inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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 Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the group and charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under Section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the group and charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the group and charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Mrs L Weaver FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Thorne Widgery Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
2 Wyevale Business Park
Kings Acre
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 7BS

Date:31/10/23.....

**Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

| | Notes | Unrestricted fund £ | Designated fund £ | Restricted funds £ | 31.3.23 Total funds £ | 31.3.22 Total funds £ |
|---|-------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2 | 921,915 | 244,428 | 655,059 | 1,821,402 | 1,825,154 |
| Charitable activities | 5 | | | | | |
| Education | | - | - | - | - | 460 |
| Land Management Grants | | 287,582 | - | 25,815 | 313,397 | 288,863 |
| Education & Communication | | 11,465 | - | 124,560 | 136,025 | 139,673 |
| Wider Countryside | | 59,178 | 5,351 | 102,137 | 166,666 | 141,080 |
| Other trading activities | 3 | 352,645 | - | - | 352,645 | 285,796 |
| Investment income | 4 | 83,475 | - | - | 83,475 | 78,386 |
| Other income | 6 | 42,769 | - | - | 42,769 | 33,422 |
| Total | | 1,759,029 | 249,779 | 907,571 | 2,916,379 | 2,792,834 |
| EXPENDITURE ON | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 7 | 724,346 | 60,585 | 440 | 785,371 | 812,638 |
| Charitable activities | 8 | | | | | |
| Education & Communication | | 144,047 | 10,391 | 158,113 | 312,551 | 220,209 |
| Wider Countryside | | 182,383 | 515 | 170,241 | 353,139 | 370,549 |
| Reserves | | 766,174 | 46,386 | 51,229 | 863,789 | 766,132 |
| Total | | 1,816,950 | 117,877 | 380,023 | 2,314,850 | 2,169,528 |
| NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) before gains/(losses) | | (57,921) | 131,902 | 527,548 | 601,529 | 623,306 |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | | - | (274,626) | - | (274,626) | (43,089) |
| NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) | | (57,921) | (142,724) | 527,548 | 326,903 | 580,217 |
| Transfers between funds | 22 | 22,864 | 20,221 | (43,085) | - | - |
| Other recognised gains/(losses) | | | | | | |
| Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit schemes | | - | - | - | - | 43,413 |
| Net Movement in Fund | | (35,057) | (122,503) | 484,463 | 326,903 | 623,630 |
| RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | | | | | |
| As previously reported | | 5,536,914 | 4,017,575 | 7,756,339 | 17,310,828 | 16,687,198 |
| TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD | | 5,501,857 | 3,895,072 | 8,240,802 | 17,637,731 | 17,310,828 |

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.
The notes form part of these financial statements

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023

| | Notes | Group | | Charity | |
|--|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | 31.3.23 £ | 31.3.22 £ | 31.3.23 £ | 31.3.22 £ |
| FIXED ASSETS | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 15 | 13,729,315 | 13,124,415 | 13,728,629 | 13,123,501 |
| Investments | 16 | 3,268,658 | 3,557,130 | 3,278,658 | 3,567,130 |
| | | <u>16,997,973</u> | <u>16,681,545</u> | <u>17,007,287</u> | <u>16,690,631</u> |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | | |
| Stocks | 17 | 3,224 | 34,460 | - | - |
| Debtors | 18 | 386,653 | 266,364 | 444,422 | 314,690 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 400,543 | 513,952 | 311,120 | 484,959 |
| | | <u>790,420</u> | <u>814,776</u> | <u>755,542</u> | <u>799,649</u> |
| CREDITORS | | | | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | 19 | (150,662) | (185,493) | (127,512) | (180,295) |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>639,758</u> | <u>629,283</u> | <u>628,030</u> | <u>619,354</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | <u>17,637,731</u> | <u>17,310,828</u> | <u>17,635,317</u> | <u>17,309,985</u> |
| PENSION LIABILITY | 23 | - | - | - | - |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>17,637,731</u> | <u>17,310,828</u> | <u>17,635,317</u> | <u>17,309,985</u> |
| FUNDS | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | 22 | 9,396,929 | 9,554,489 | 9,240,059 | 9,570,900 |
| Restricted funds | | 8,240,802 | 7,756,339 | 8,215,258 | 7,739,085 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | | <u>17,637,731</u> | <u>17,310,828</u> | <u>17,635,317</u> | <u>17,309,985</u> |

The group and the charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023. The members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company and group keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and group as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company and group.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24/10/23 and were signed on its behalf by:


D J Mortiboys -Trustee

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

| | Notes | 31.3.23 £ | 31.3.22 £ |
|---|-------|------------------|------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | | |
| Cash generated from operations | 1 | <u>202,231</u> | <u>545,721</u> |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | | <u>202,231</u> | <u>545,721</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | |
| Investment income | | 83,475 | 78,386 |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | (630,308) | (994,541) |
| Purchase of fixed asset investments | | - | (230,686) |
| Sale of tangible fixed assets | | - | 2,250 |
| Sale of fixed asset investments | | <u>231,193</u> | <u>245,065</u> |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | | <u>(315,640)</u> | <u>(899,526)</u> |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period | | <u>(113,409)</u> | <u>(353,804)</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period | | <u>513,952</u> | <u>867,756</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period | | <u>400,543</u> | <u>513,952</u> |

The notes form part of these financial statements

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Notes to the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities) | 326,903 | 623,630 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Depreciation charges | 25,407 | 27,346 |
| Losses/(gain) on investments | 274,626 | 43,089 |
| Investment income | (83,475) | (78,386) |
| Movements in settlements pending | (217,346) | (7,232) |
| (Increase) / decrease in stocks | 31,236 | 20,597 |
| (Increase) / decrease in debtors | (120,289) | (93,369) |
| (Decrease)/increase in creditors | <u>(34,831)</u> | <u>10,046</u> |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | <u>202,231</u> | <u>545,721</u> |

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Group Financial Statements

The results of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and its wholly owned subsidiary W.N.C.T. Enterprises Limited have been consolidated and group accounts have been presented. All transactions between the Charity and its subsidiary have been eliminated on consolidation. A separate statement of financial activities and income and expenditure account for the Charity itself are not presented because the Charity has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the SORP.

Income

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts, legacies, subscriptions and covenants and fund-raising activities. The income is all credited to the income and expenditure account on a receipt's basis. Tax refunds on covenant income are however accrued.

Revenue grants are credited to the income and expenditure account on a receipts basis unless they are in respect of a specific contract, when they are credited in the period in which the expenditure is incurred.

Investment income

All investment income is credited according to the date of receipt into the investment cash account.

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time is not recognised and refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

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 a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

All expenditure other than that which has been capitalised is included in the income and expenditure account. Account is also taken of goods and services received at the period-end but not invoiced until after this date.

Raising funds

Raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities, events and non-charitable trading.

Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities are incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Governance costs

Governance costs include the general overheads of the Charity and a proportion of staff costs.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Costs are allocated to a particular activity where the cost relates to that activity. Salaries and central overhead costs not directly attributable to specific activities are apportioned to activities on the basis of estimated time spent on each activity.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Provision is made for depreciation in order to write off the cost of fixed assets over their expected useful lives. The following rates have been used:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Nature Reserves & Freehold Properties | Nil |
| Leasehold Properties | Straight line over the life of the lease |
| Vehicles | 25% Reducing balance and 25% straight line |
| Office Equipment and Fittings | 25% Reducing balance |
| Computer Equipment | 25% Straight line |
| Solar Panels | 10% Straight line |

All items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500 and their useful economical life exceeds one year.

FRS102 requires that provision be made for depreciation of fixed assets having a finite useful life. However, the Trustees are of the opinion that the residual value at the end of the estimated useful life of the nature reserves and freehold properties are not likely to materially differ from its cost. This is because it is the Charity's policy to maintain the nature reserves and freehold properties in such a condition that their value is not diminished by the passage of time; the relevant expenditure is charged against income in the financial period in which it is incurred. Therefore, any element of depreciation is considered to be immaterial and no provision is made.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure, where specific grants are obtained, is capitalised at full cost. Any grants received towards the purchase of such assets are added to the designated or restricted fund as appropriate.

Investments

Investments are valued at mid-market price at the balance sheet date. Realised investment gains/losses represent the differences on sale of investments between the proceeds on sale and the opening market value and/or cost of additions in the period. Unrealised investment gains/losses represent the differences between the closing market value and the opening market value and/or cost of additions in the period.

Stocks

Agricultural produce is measured, at the point of harvest, at fair value less estimated point-of sale costs. Other stock is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

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

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

Taxation

No Corporation Tax is charged in the accounts of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust due to the charitable status of the Company. In addition, there is a deed of covenant in place, which enables W.N.C.T. Enterprises Limited to covenant its taxable profits to the Charity.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The Charity operates a defined benefit pension scheme, which is part of a multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the charity in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses. Further details are included in the notes to the financial statements.

No new employees are eligible to join the defined benefit scheme.

Going concern

Refer to the reports of the trustee for information regarding the charity's response to the current economic climate and its affect on the charity.

This highlights the trustees belief that the charity will be a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

| | 31.3.23 | 31.03.22 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Restricted Fund | | |
| Other Donations Received | 619,025 | 557,666 |
| Grants | 36,034 | 127,640 |
| Designated | | |
| Legacies Received | 224,982 | 218,533 |
| Other Donations Received | 5,672 | 25,000 |
| Grants | 13,773 | 25,267 |
| Unrestricted Fund | | |
| Membership giving | 687,978 | 655,106 |
| Gift aid | 156,142 | 145,732 |
| Other Donations Received | 72,378 | 37,629 |
| Grants | 5,418 | 32,581 |
| | <u>1,821,402</u> | <u>1,825,154</u> |

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

| | 31.03.23 | 31.03.22 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Restricted Fund | | |
| National Heritage | 36,034 | - |
| RSWT | - | 10,000 |
| Rowlands Trust | - | 3,000 |
| Banister/Ludlow Trust | - | 112,500 |
| Severn Trent Water | - | 2,140 |
| | <u>36,034</u> | <u>127,640</u> |
| Designated | | |
| WCC | 3,023 | - |
| JEC Electrical - Ozev Grant | 10,750 | - |
| Severn Trent Water | - | 25,267 |
| | <u>13,773</u> | <u>25,267</u> |
| Unrestricted Fund | | |
| The Norman & Evelyn Proffitt Trust | - | 4,805 |
| Wychavon DC | - | 18,000 |
| Severn Rivers Trust | - | 7,500 |
| WWC | 4,668 | - |
| Other < £1,000 | 750 | 2,276 |
| | <u>5,418</u> | <u>32,581</u> |
| Total grant income | <u>55,225</u> | <u>185,488</u> |

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| W.N.C.T. Enterprises Ltd | 276,733 | 229,446 |
| Timber sales | 67,764 | 48,247 |
| Sundry Income | <u>8,148</u> | <u>8,103</u> |
| | <u>352,645</u> | <u>285,796</u> |

£Nil (2022: £Nil) of Trading income in 2023 relates to restricted funds and the remaining balance of other trading activities £352,645 (2022: £285,796) is unrestricted.

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Income from Stock Exchange Investments - UK | <u>83,475</u> | <u>78,386</u> |
| | <u>83,475</u> | <u>78,386</u> |

All of the figures included in the current period and comparatives relate to unrestricted funds.

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Education | - | 460 |
| Land Management Grants | 313,397 | 288,863 |
| Education | 136,025 | 139,673 |
| Wider Countryside income | <u>166,666</u> | <u>141,080</u> |
| | <u>616,088</u> | <u>570,076</u> |

See the Statement of Financial Activities for the above split between funds.

6. OTHER INCOME

| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Gain on sale of tangible fixed assets | - | 2,665 |
| Wider Countryside Team Income | 29,235 | 48,624 |
| Rent Received | <u>13,534</u> | <u>18,283</u> |
| | <u>42,769</u> | <u>69,572</u> |

All of the figures included in the current period and comparatives relate to unrestricted funds.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

7. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Staff costs | 152,912 | 163,437 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 79,002 | 32,443 |
| Membership publications | 66,553 | 56,597 |
| Membership recruitment | 150,180 | 160,589 |
| Membership costs | 16,728 | 22,674 |
| Fundraising and marketing | 19,567 | 36,260 |
| General office costs | 52,749 | 52,997 |
| Depreciation | 25,179 | 26,920 |
| | <u>562,870</u> | <u>551,917</u> |

Investment management costs

| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Portfolio management | <u>16,483</u> | <u>13,511</u> |
| W.N.C.T. Enterprises Ltd | <u>206,018</u> | <u>247,210</u> |
| Aggregate amounts | <u>785,371</u> | <u>812,638</u> |

£964 (2022: £964) of depreciation, £16,483 (2022: £13,511) of portfolio management and £43,138 (2022: £41,008) other costs in 2023 relates to designated funds. £440 (2022: £500) of depreciation relates to restricted funds. The remaining balance for raising funds of £724,346 (2022: £756,655) is unrestricted.

8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

| | Direct costs | Support costs (See note 9) | Totals |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Education & Communication | 312,551 | - | 312,551 |
| Wider Countryside | 353,139 | - | 353,139 |
| Reserves | 651,218 | 212,571 | 863,789 |
| | <u>1,316,908</u> | <u>212,571</u> | <u>1,529,479</u> |

See the Statement of Financial Activities for the above split between funds.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE

| | Staff costs £ | Depn £ | Auditors remuneration £ | Other costs £ | 31.3.23 £ |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Raising funds | 152,912 | 25,179 | - | 384,779 | 562,870 |
| Investment management costs | - | - | - | 16,483 | 16,483 |
| W.N.C.T Enterprises Ltd | 74,605 | 228 | 1,575 | 129,610 | 206,018 |
| Charitable activities | 919,377 | - | 6,565 | 603,537 | 1,529,479 |
| | <u>1,146,894</u> | <u>25,407</u> | <u>8,140</u> | <u>1,134,409</u> | <u>2,314,850</u> |

9. SUPPORT COSTS

| | Raising Funds £ | Charitable Activities £ | Governance Costs £ | 31.3.23 £ | 31.3.22 £ |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Administration staff wages | 21,872 | 47,390 | 3,645 | 72,907 | 58,271 |
| General office expenses | 36,903 | 95,421 | 7,340 | 139,664 | 137,081 |
| | <u>58,775</u> | <u>142,811</u> | <u>10,985</u> | <u>212,571</u> | <u>195,352</u> |

Support costs are allocated on a percentage basis between the activities of the charity. This methodology is reviewed annually to ensure its continued appropriateness.

10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net consolidated income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

| | 31.3.23 £ | 31.3.22 £ |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Auditors' remuneration | 8,140 | 7,750 |
| Depreciation - owned assets | 25,407 | 27,346 |
| Operating leases | 4,887 | 4,887 |
| Surplus on disposal of fixed assets | - | (2,665) |

Excluding the activities of the subsidiary, W.N.C.T. Enterprises Limited, The Charity has an individual surplus in funds for the year before gains/losses on investments of £599,958 (2022: £625,216).

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

Expenses of £138 (2022: £867) were paid to 3 trustees (2022: 4 Trustees). These expenses are in relation to mileage and reimbursements.

12. STAFF COSTS

| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 882,739 | 770,629 |
| Social security costs | 68,400 | 67,500 |
| Other pension costs | <u>124,795</u> | <u>111,904</u> |
| | <u>1,075,934</u> | <u>950,033</u> |

The above stated pension costs include pension deficit payments of £50,055 (2022: £41,458).

GROUP

| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 944,413 | 881,410 |
| Social security costs | 74,558 | 77,041 |
| Other pension costs | <u>131,568</u> | <u>125,343</u> |
| | <u>1,150,539</u> | <u>1,083,794</u> |

The above stated pension costs include pension deficit payments of £51,891 (2022: £50,380).

The average number of persons employed during the year were:

| Group | | Charity | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2023 No. | 2022 No. | 2023 No. | 2022 No. |
| <u>35</u> | <u>38</u> | <u>33</u> | <u>33</u> |

The number of employees whose benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

| | 31.03.23 | 31.03.22 |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| £60,001 - £70,000 | - | 1 |

The key management personnel of the group charity and subsidiary company received employee benefits of £77,551 (2022: £84,876). Key management consist of the Director of Operations.

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

| | Notes | Unrestricted fund £ | Designated fund £ | Restricted funds £ | 31.3.22 Total funds £ | 31.3.21 Total funds £ |
|---|-------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2 | 871,048 | 268,800 | 685,306 | 1,825,154 | 1,838,965 |
| Charitable activities | 5 | | | | | |
| Education | | 460 | - | - | 460 | 623 |
| Land Management Grant | | 288,863 | - | - | 288,863 | 314,269 |
| Education & Communication | | 14,723 | - | 124,950 | 139,673 | - |
| Wider Countryside | | 34,206 | - | 106,874 | 141,080 | - |
| Other trading activities | 3 | 285,796 | - | - | 285,796 | 336,087 |
| Investment income | 4 | 78,386 | - | - | 78,386 | 63,839 |
| Other income | 6 | 33,422 | - | - | 33,422 | 41,961 |
| Total | | 1,606,904 | 268,800 | 917,130 | 2,792,834 | 2,595,744 |
| EXPENDITURE ON | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 7 | 756,655 | 55,483 | 500 | 812,638 | 738,493 |
| Charitable activities | 8 | | | | | |
| Education & Communication | | 132,184 | 40,378 | 47,647 | 220,209 | 220,844 |
| Wider Countryside | | 169,398 | - | 201,151 | 370,549 | 383,029 |
| Reserves | | 635,836 | 61,732 | 68,564 | 766,132 | 775,199 |
| Total | | 1,694,073 | 157,593 | 317,862 | 2,169,528 | 2,117,565 |
| NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) before gains/(losses) | | (87,169) | 111,207 | 599,268 | 623,306 | 478,179 |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | | - | (43,089) | - | (43,089) | 519,239 |
| NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) | | (87,169) | 68,118 | 599,268 | 580,217 | 997,418 |
| Transfers between funds | 22 | | (101,999) | 101,999 | - | - |
| Other recognised gains/(losses) | | | | | | |
| Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit schemes | | 43,413 | - | - | 43,413 | 11,240 |
| Net Movement in Fund | | (43,756) | (33,881) | 701,267 | 623,630 | 1,008,658 |
| RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward As previously reported | | 5,580,670 | 4,051,456 | 7,055,072 | 16,687,198 | 15,678,540 |
| TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD | | 5,536,914 | 4,017,575 | 7,756,339 | 17,310,828 | 16,687,198 |

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

14. NET INCOME FROM TRADING ACTIVITIES OF SUBSIDIARY

The Charity has a wholly owned trading subsidiary, which is incorporated in the United Kingdom. The principal activity of W.N.C.T. Enterprises Limited is that of environmental consultancy work. The Company covenants its taxable profits to Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. A summary of trading results is shown below. Audited accounts are filed with the Registrar of Companies. This summary includes transactions with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust which have been eliminated on consolidation.

| | £ | 31.3.23 £ | £ | 31.3.22 £ |
|--|--------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Turnover | | | | |
| Sales and services - External | 276,733 | | 229,446 | |
| Sales and services - Internal | <u>9,299</u> | | <u>10,600</u> | |
| | | 286,032 | | 240,046 |
| Cost of Sales | | | | |
| Cost of goods sold - External | (111,310) | | (86,740) | |
| Cost of good sold - Internal | <u>-</u> | | <u>5,254</u> | |
| | | <u>(111,310)</u> | | <u>(81,486)</u> |
| Gross Profit | | 174,722 | | 158,560 |
| Administrative expenses | | | | |
| General administrative expenses | (94,480) | | (160,164) | |
| Depreciation | <u>(228)</u> | | <u>(306)</u> | |
| | | <u>(94,708)</u> | | <u>(160,470)</u> |
| Net profit for the year | | 80,014 | | (1,910) |
| Retained profit in Subsidiary b/fwd Covenanted to Worcestershire Wildlife Trust | | <u>(78,443)</u> | | <u>-</u> |
| Retained profit in Subsidiary c/fwd | | <u>1,571</u> | | <u>(1,910)</u> |
| Net assets held in Subsidiary | | <u>12,414</u> | | <u>10,843</u> |

Included in Sales and Services to Worcestershire Wildlife Trust of £9,299 (2022: £10,600) and purchases of £Nil (2022: £5,254 a credit note raised during the year) which have been eliminated on consolidation.

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

CHARITY

| | Nature reserves & freehold property £ | Leasehold property £ | Solar panels £ |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------|
| COST | | | |
| At 1 April 2022 | 13,042,564 | 45,000 | 9,637 |
| Additions | 614,987 | - | - |
| Disposals | - | - | - |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>13,657,551</u> | <u>45,000</u> | <u>9,637</u> |
| DEPRECIATION | | | |
| At 1 April 2022 | - | 3,968 | 6,746 |
| Charge for year | - | 496 | 964 |
| Eliminated on disposal | - | - | - |
| At 31 March 2023 | - | <u>4,464</u> | <u>7,710</u> |
| NET BOOK VALUE | | | |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>13,657,551</u> | <u>40,536</u> | <u>1,927</u> |
| At 31 March 2022 | <u>13,042,564</u> | <u>41,032</u> | <u>2,891</u> |

| | Office equipment and fittings £ | Motor vehicles £ | Computer equipment £ | Totals £ |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| COST | | | | |
| At 1 April 2022 | 213,742 | 68,183 | 156,034 | 13,535,160 |
| Additions | 5,025 | - | 10,296 | 630,308 |
| Disposals | - | - | (65,217) | (65,217) |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>218,767</u> | <u>68,183</u> | <u>101,113</u> | <u>14,100,251</u> |
| DEPRECIATION | | | | |
| At 1 April 2022 | 197,356 | 65,170 | 138,419 | 411,659 |
| Charge for year | 5,361 | 3,013 | 15,346 | 25,180 |
| Eliminated on disposal | - | - | (65,217) | (65,217) |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>202,717</u> | <u>68,183</u> | <u>88,548</u> | <u>371,622</u> |
| NET BOOK VALUE | | | | |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>16,050</u> | - | <u>12,565</u> | <u>13,728,629</u> |
| At 31 March 2022 | <u>16,386</u> | <u>3,013</u> | <u>17,615</u> | <u>13,123,501</u> |

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

GROUP

| | Nature reserves & freehold property £ | Leasehold property £ | Solar panels £ |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------|
| COST | | | |
| At 1 April 2022 | 13,042,564 | 45,000 | 9,637 |
| Additions | 614,987 | - | - |
| Disposals | - | - | - |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>13,637,551</u> | <u>45,000</u> | <u>9,637</u> |
| DEPRECIATION | | | |
| At 1 April 2022 | - | 3,968 | 6,746 |
| Charge for year | - | 496 | 964 |
| Eliminated on disposal | - | - | - |
| At 31 March 2023 | - | <u>4,464</u> | <u>7,710</u> |
| NET BOOK VALUE | | | |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>13,637,551</u> | <u>40,536</u> | <u>1,927</u> |
| At 31 March 2022 | <u>13,042,564</u> | <u>41,032</u> | <u>2,891</u> |

| | Office equipment & fittings £ | Motor vehicles £ | Computer equipment £ | Total £ |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| COST | | | | |
| At 1 April 2022 | 221,863 | 82,698 | 156,035 | 13,557,797 |
| Additions | 5,025 | - | 10,296 | 630,308 |
| Disposals | - | - | (65,217) | (65,217) |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>226,888</u> | <u>82,698</u> | <u>101,114</u> | <u>14,122,888</u> |
| DEPRECIATION | | | | |
| At 1 April 2022 | 204,562 | 79,685 | 138,421 | 433,382 |
| Charge for year | 5,589 | 3,013 | 15,346 | 25,408 |
| Eliminated on disposal | - | - | (65,217) | (65,217) |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>210,151</u> | <u>82,698</u> | <u>88,550</u> | <u>393,573</u> |
| NET BOOK VALUE | | | | |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>16,737</u> | - | <u>12,564</u> | <u>13,729,315</u> |
| At 31 March 2022 | <u>17,301</u> | <u>3,013</u> | <u>17,614</u> | <u>13,124,415</u> |

At 31 March 2021, an informal desktop valuation was performed in house on the nature reserves to review the value for impairment, the value calculated was £12.9m therefore the trustees believe there is no impairment.

Included within the net book value of office equipment & fitting and computer equipment above is £686 (2022: £914 which relates to the assets of W.N.C.T. Enterprises Limited).

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

GROUP

| | Listed investments £ | Cash and settlements pending £ | Totals £ |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| MARKET VALUE | | | |
| At 1 April 2022 | 3,445,791 | 111,339 | 3,557,130 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| Disposals | (231,193) | - | (231,193) |
| Revaluations | (274,625) | - | (274,625) |
| Movement on cash | | 217,346 | 217,346 |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>2,939,973</u> | <u>328,685</u> | <u>3,268,658</u> |
| NET BOOK VALUE | | | |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>2,939,973</u> | <u>328,685</u> | <u>3,268,658</u> |
| At 31 March 2022 | <u>3,445,791</u> | <u>111,339</u> | <u>3,557,130</u> |

The Market Value of listed investments can be analysed as follows:

| | 31.3.23 £ | 31.3.22 £ |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| UK Government Stocks | 38,018 | 42,198 |
| UK Equity Shares | 604,833 | 756,947 |
| UK Corporate Bonds & Unit Trusts | 415,075 | 385,010 |
| Foreign bonds & securities | 260,911 | 386,995 |
| Foreign equity | 1,341,401 | 1,483,059 |
| Alternative investments | 279,735 | 391,582 |
| | <u>2,939,973</u> | <u>3,445,791</u> |

Fixed asset investments are held primarily to provide an investment return and are assigned to the Conservation Development Designated Fund.

The investment figure in the Charity Balance Sheet also includes £10,000 (2022: £10,000) which is the nominal value of the shares held in its wholly owned subsidiary W.N.C.T. Enterprises Limited (Co No 01991532). This is eliminated on consolidation and, hence, is not included in the Group Balance Sheet. There are no fixed asset investments held within W.N.C.T. Enterprises Ltd balance sheet.

The charitable company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

W.N.C.T. Enterprises Ltd
Nature of business: Environmental consultancy

| Class of share: | % holding | 31.3.23 £ | 31.3.22 £ |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Ordinary | 100 | | |
| Aggregate capital and reserves | | 10,843 | 12,753 |
| Profit/(Loss) for the year | | <u>1,571</u> | <u>(1,910)</u> |

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

| | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| 17. STOCK | | |
| GROUP | | |
| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
| | £ | £ |
| Stock | <u>3,224</u> | <u>34,460</u> |
| | <u>3,224</u> | <u>34,460</u> |
| 18. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR | | |
| CHARITY | | |
| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
| | £ | £ |
| Trade debtors | 60,506 | 88,269 |
| W.N.C.T. Enterprises Limited | 68,565 | 62,524 |
| Other debtors | - | 4,114 |
| VAT | 19,195 | 31,851 |
| Accrued income | 274,624 | 119,791 |
| Prepayments | <u>21,532</u> | <u>8,141</u> |
| | <u>444,422</u> | <u>314,690</u> |
| GROUP | | |
| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
| | £ | £ |
| Trade debtors | 76,288 | 110,230 |
| Other debtors | - | 4,114 |
| VAT | 14,209 | 24,088 |
| Accrued income | 274,624 | 119,791 |
| Prepayments | <u>21,532</u> | <u>8,141</u> |
| | <u>386,653</u> | <u>266,364</u> |
| 19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR | | |
| CHARITY | | |
| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
| | £ | £ |
| Trade creditors | 60,529 | 119,713 |
| Social security and other taxes | 21,330 | 27,357 |
| Accrued expenses | 44,113 | 33,225 |
| Other creditors | <u>1,540</u> | - |
| | <u>127,512</u> | <u>180,295</u> |
| GROUP | | |
| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
| | £ | £ |
| Trade creditors | 61,328 | 122,091 |
| Social security and other taxes | 21,330 | 27,357 |
| Deferred income | - | 1,620 |
| Accrued expenses | 44,113 | 34,425 |
| Other creditors | <u>23,891</u> | - |
| | <u>150,662</u> | <u>185,493</u> |

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR - continued

Deferred income for the year ended 31 March 2023

| | Charity 31.3.23 £ | Group 31.3.23 £ |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Deferred income at 1 April 2022 | - | 1,620 |
| Resources deferred in the year | - | - |
| Amounts released from previous year | - | (1,620) |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |

20. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The total operating lease payments committed to be paid are as follows:

| | Other operating leases 31.3.23 £ | 31.3.22 £ |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|
| Expiring: | | |
| Within one year | 5,602 | 4,847 |
| Between one and five years | <u>6,219</u> | <u>1,212</u> |
| | <u>11,821</u> | <u>6,059</u> |

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

21. ANALYSIS OF CONSOLIDATED NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

| | Unrestricted fund £ | Designated fund £ | Restricted funds £ | 31.3.23 Total funds £ | 31.3.22 Total funds £ |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fixed assets | 5,918,415 | 141,727 | 7,669,173 | 13,729,315 | 13,124,415 |
| Investments | - | 3,268,658 | - | 3,268,658 | 3,557,130 |
| Current assets | (265,896) | 484,687 | 571,629 | 790,420 | 814,776 |
| Current liabilities | (150,662) | - | - | (150,662) | (185,493) |
| Pension liability | - | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>5,501,857</u> | <u>3,895,072</u> | <u>8,240,802</u> | <u>17,637,731</u> | <u>17,310,828</u> |

Included within unrestricted funds is net assets of £2,414 (2022: £843) which relates to W.N.C.T. Enterprises Ltd.

22. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (consolidated)

| | At 1.4.22 £ | Net movement in funds £ | Transfers between funds £ | At 31.3.23 £ |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General fund | 5,536,914 | (57,921) | 22,864 | 5,501,857 |
| Designated fund | <u>4,017,575</u> | <u>(142,724)</u> | <u>20,221</u> | <u>3,895,072</u> |
| | 9,554,489 | (200,645) | 43,085 | 9,396,929 |
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Restricted funds | <u>7,756,339</u> | <u>527,548</u> | <u>(43,085)</u> | <u>8,240,802</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>17,310,828</u> | <u>326,903</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>17,637,731</u> |

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

| | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Gains and losses £ | Movement in funds £ |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General fund | 1,759,029 | (1,816,950) | - | (57,921) |
| Designated fund | <u>249,779</u> | <u>(117,877)</u> | <u>(274,626)</u> | <u>(142,724)</u> |
| | 2,008,808 | (1,934,827) | (274,626) | (200,645) |
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Restricted funds | <u>907,571</u> | <u>(380,023)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>527,548</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>2,916,379</u> | <u>(2,314,850)</u> | <u>(274,626)</u> | <u>326,903</u> |

22. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative for movement in funds

| | At 1.4.21 £ | Net movement in funds £ | Transfers between funds £ | At 31.3.22 £ |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General fund | 5,580,670 | (43,756) | - | 5,536,914 |
| Designated fund | <u>4,051,456</u> | <u>68,118</u> | <u>(101,999)</u> | <u>4,017,575</u> |
| | 9,632,126 | 24,362 | (101,999) | 9,554,489 |
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 7,055,072 | 599,268 | 101,999 | 7,756,339 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>16,687,198</u> | <u>623,630</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>17,310,828</u> |

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

| | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Gains and losses £ | Movement in funds £ |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General fund | 1,606,904 | (1,694,073) | 43,413 | (43,756) |
| Designated fund | <u>268,800</u> | <u>(157,593)</u> | <u>(43,089)</u> | <u>68,118</u> |
| | 1,875,704 | (1,851,666) | 324 | 24,362 |
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 917,130 | (317,862) | - | 599,268 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>2,792,834</u> | <u>(2,169,528)</u> | <u>324</u> | <u>623,630</u> |

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds consist of the reserves of the subsidiary and general fund of the charity.

| | 31.3.21 £ | 31.3.22 £ |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| General fund of Charity | 5,527,138 | 5,555,476 |
| Reserves of Subsidiary company | <u>2,414</u> | <u>843</u> |
| | | 5,556,319 |
| Unrestricted funds eliminated on consolidation | <u>(27,695)</u> | <u>(19,403)</u> |
| | 5,501,857 | 5,536,914 |

Designated Fund

The funds of the Charity includes the designated fund, which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the Trustees for specific purposes. The designated fund has been set aside for the purpose of conservation and development projects.

Transfers

The trustees have reviewed the reserves above and made appropriate transfers to reflect the true position.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

22. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted Funds

The funds of the Charity are restricted funds comprising the following:-

| | Balance at 01.04.2022 | Incoming Resources | Resources Expended | Transfers between funds | Balance at 31.03.2023 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <u>Fixed assets/property</u> | | | | | |
| Gwen Finch Wetland Reserve | 214,860 | - | - | - | 214,860 |
| Hunt House Wood | 252,210 | - | - | - | 252,210 |
| Penorchard | 230,248 | - | - | - | 230,248 |
| Hill Court Farm | 1,637,855 | - | - | - | 1,637,855 |
| Lower Smite Farm | 1,660,215 | - | - | - | 1,660,215 |
| Sands Lane Meadows | 110,245 | - | - | - | 110,245 |
| Baynhall Meadow | 21,120 | - | - | - | 21,120 |
| Boynes Meadows | 157,689 | - | - | - | 157,689 |
| Hollybed Farm | 394,661 | - | - | - | 394,661 |
| Blackhouse Wood | 436,779 | - | - | - | 436,779 |
| Grafton Wood & Laight Rough | 237,063 | - | - | - | 237,063 |
| Martley Hillside Wood | 37,800 | - | - | - | 37,800 |
| Vehicle Replacement - severn waste | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Merries Farm | 17,553 | - | - | - | 17,553 |
| Helen Mackaness Reserve | 23,408 | - | - | - | 23,408 |
| Hardwick Green | 367,998 | - | - | - | 367,998 |
| Nash's Meadows | 234,880 | - | - | - | 234,880 |
| Woodland at Tor Coppice | 60,000 | - | - | - | 60,000 |
| Rosebank Coppice | 3,500 | - | - | - | 3,500 |
| Mob Squinton Wood | 30,000 | - | - | - | 30,000 |
| Rawlings Meadow | 28,200 | - | - | - | 28,200 |
| Dropping Well farm | 897,902 | - | - | - | 897,902 |
| Green Farm | - | - | - | 416,658 | 416,658 |
| Fields at Romsley Manor farm | - | - | - | 198,330 | 198,330 |
| | 7,054,186 | - | - | 614,988 | 7,669,174 |

22. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

| | Balance at 01.04.2022 | Incoming Resources | Resources Expended | Transfers between funds | Balance at 31.03.2023 |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Net Current Assets: | | | | | |
| Woodland Fund / Mr & Mrs Clark | 10,955 | - | - | - | 10,955 |
| Emp of Officers funded by STW | 9,731 | 86,309 | (96,040) | - | - |
| Emp of Officers funded by ESIF | (1,628) | 60,932 | (59,303) | - | 1 |
| Appeal - Dropping Wells Farm | 310,933 | 50 | - | (310,983) | - |
| Dropping Well Farm Delivery Phase | (4,593) | 60,734 | (45,408) | 310,983 | 321,716 |
| Mettis Aerospace Ltd donation | 5,000 | - | - | (5,000) | - |
| Enhancing Public Goods in the FoF | 20,458 | - | - | (20,458) | - |
| Pound Green common restoration 202C | 1,820 | - | - | - | 1,820 |
| Support for delivery of Carbon reductic | 20,000 | - | - | (20,000) | - |
| Land at Green Farm, Adjacent to Monl | 219,034 | 298,027 | (13,180) | (503,881) | - |
| Green Farm delivery project | - | 1,114 | (1,385) | 87,223 | 86,952 |
| Fields at Romsley Manor Farm | - | 233,554 | (1,865) | (158,476) | 73,213 |
| Romsley Meadow Appeal | - | 26,461 | (270) | (26,191) | - |
| Land management trial | 11,290 | - | - | (11,290) | - |
| Wilder Worcestershire GRCF | 81,897 | 99,960 | (133,901) | - | 47,956 |
| Nextdoor Nature | - | 24,600 | (22,062) | - | 2,538 |
| Severn Treescapes | - | 15,830 | (14,899) | - | 931 |
| | 684,899 | 907,571 | 388,313 | 658,073.45 | 546,083 |
| Charity | 7,739,085 | 907,571 | 388,313 | 43,085.45 | 8,215,258 |
| Restricted funds eliminated on consolidation | 17,254 | | 8,290 | | 25,544 |
| Total Restricted Funds - Group | 7,756,339 | 907,571 | (380,023) | (43,085) | 8,240,802 |

22. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Gwen Finch Otter Reserve is for the creation and restoration of a large wetland on the River Avon.

Hunthouse Wood - fund is for specifically approved projects on this reserve.

Penorchard - fund is for specifically approved projects on this reserve.

Hill Court Farm - fund is for the creation and maintenance of this wetland reserve.

Lower Smite Farm - fund is for the creation and maintenance of the Education Centre and ancillary buildings.

Special projects - the special projects fund is for the delivery of a wide range of projects, often on nature reserves, using a variety of restricted income sources.

Woodlands - donation in memory of Mr and Mrs Clarke to be used specifically for buying a reserve which meets with their family's approval. We have not been able to fulfil this criteria to date.

Various reserves - either gifted to the trust with restrictions attached or bought from donations and funds raised for a restricted purpose. All acquired in line with the Trust's objectives, to advance, promote and further the conservation and protection of Nature Reserves which shall be owned, maintained or managed by the Trust; to study and further the conservation, restoration and creation of places of natural beauty, zoological, botanical, ecological, geological, or general scientific interest, and to promote, encourage and carry out study and research for the advancement of knowledge in the natural sciences.

Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds have been made in the year to reflect the correct positions on special projects.

23. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The following employers are the sponsoring employers of a defined benefit pension liabilities held in the Scheme in the UK, which provides retirement benefits based on members' salaries when they left employment. Further Employers may have defined contribution benefits held within the Scheme, but these Employers are not shown here.

- Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Essex Wildlife Trust
- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
- Lancashire Wildlife Trust
- Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
- Leicestershire Wildlife (Sales) Ltd
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust
- The Green Estate Ltd
- Sussex Wildlife Trust
- RSWT Wildlife Trust
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
- WNCT Enterprises Ltd

The assets of the Scheme are held in a separately administered fund and the Scheme is administered by the Trustees (independent of the Employers) who are responsible for ensuring that the Scheme is sufficiently funded to meet current and future obligations. However, the assets and liabilities are not segregated between the Employers.

The liabilities set out in this note have been calculated based on the preliminary results of the full Scheme Funding Assessment as at 1 April 2019, updated to 31 March 2023. The present value of the defined benefit obligation was measured using the projected unit credit method.

The Employers have agreed a funding plan with the Trustees, whereby contributions are made into the Scheme in order to remove the funding deficit based on each Employer's share of the total Scheme liabilities, calculated by the Scheme Actuary as at the most recent Scheme Funding Assessment (currently, 1 April 2019).

The disclosures set out below are based on calculations carried out as at 31 March 2023 by an independent qualified actuary.

23. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS - continued

The results of the calculations and the assumptions adopted are shown below. All figures in the disclosures are quoted to the nearest £1 unless otherwise stated.

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

| | Defined benefit pension plans | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
| | £ | £ |
| Current service cost | - | - |
| Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability | (2,714) | 1,222 |
| Past service cost | - | - |
| | <u>(2,714)</u> | <u>1,222</u> |
| Actual return on plan assets | <u>(219,955)</u> | <u>(46,982)</u> |

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

| | Defined benefit pension plans | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
| | £ | £ |
| Opening defined benefit obligation | 987,142 | 1,107,675 |
| Interest cost | 25,264 | 21,296 |
| Actuarial losses/(gains) | (133,707) | (110,469) |
| Benefits paid | (67,959) | (41,071) |
| Administration expenses | 33,759 | 9,711 |
| | <u>844,499</u> | <u>987,142</u> |

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

| | Defined benefit pension plans | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
| | £ | £ |
| Opening fair value of scheme assets | 1,080,522 | 1,024,815 |
| Contributions by employer | 51,891 | 50,380 |
| Expected return | 27,978 | 20,074 |
| Actuarial gains/(losses) | (247,933) | (67,056) |
| Benefits paid | (67,959) | (41,071) |
| | <u>844,499</u> | <u>987,142</u> |

The amounts recognised in other recognised gains and losses are as follows:

| | Defined benefit pension plans | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
| | £ | £ |
| Actuarial gains/(losses) | - | 43,413 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>43,413</u> |

23. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS - continued

The major categories of scheme assets as a percentage of total scheme assets are as follows:

| | Defined benefit pension plans | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
| UK Equities | 0.0% | 4.7% |
| Overseas Equities | 24.6% | 31.5% |
| Diversified Growth Funds | 0.0% | 23.0% |
| UK Government Fixed Interest B | 7.5% | 12.5% |
| UK Government Index Linked Bon | 15.7% | 15.3% |
| UK Corporate Bonds | 30.1% | 8.6% |
| Property | 2.8% | 2.5% |
| Cash | 1.2% | 1.9% |
| LDI | 18.1% | 0.0% |
| | <u>100.00%</u> | <u>100.00%</u> |

The pension scheme has not invested in any of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust & WNCT Enterprises Ltd's own financial instruments, nor in properties or other assets used by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust & WNCT Enterprises Ltd. The assets are all quoted in active markets.

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

| | 31.3.23 | 31.3.22 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| Discount rate | 4.68% | 2.65% |
| Future salary increases | 3.42% | 3.65% |
| Future pension increases | 2.70% | 2.85% |

| | At 31 March 2023 | At 31 March 2022 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Life expectancy of a male aged 65 at the Balance Sheet Date | 22.5 | 22.4 |
| Life expectancy of a male aged 65 in 20 years from the Balance Sheet date | 23.8 | 23.7 |
| Life expectancy of a female aged 65 at the Balance Sheet Date | 25.0 | 24.9 |
| Life expectancy of a female aged 65 in 20 years from the Balance Sheet Date | 26.4 | 26.3 |

| | At 31 March 2023 | At 31 March 2022 |
|--|--|--|
| Rate of increase to pensions in payment: | | |
| Fixed 5% pa | 5.00% | 5.00% |
| RPI max 5% pa | 3.20% | 3.35% |
| Mortality (before and after retirement) | Males: 96% of S3PA Females: 95% of S3PA CMI_2021 with a long term rate of improvements of 1.25% pa; Initial addition to mortality improvements of 0.5% | Males: 96% of S3PA Females: 95% of S3PA CMI_2020 with a long term rate of improvements of 1.25% pa; Initial addition to mortality improvements of 0.5% |
| Cash commutation | Members assumed to take 25% of their pension as tax-free cash, subject to HMRC restrictions, using cash commutation factors currently in force. | Members assumed to take 25% of their pension as tax-free cash, subject to HMRC restrictions, using cash commutation factors currently in force. |

24. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The charity participates in and is the principal employer of the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme, a multi-employer pension scheme, as described in Note 23. During the year ended 31 March 2022, the Trustees of the charity were made aware of a potential issue relating to the defined benefit section of the Scheme. A detailed investigation is currently underway to establish the extent to which this could result in financial liability to RSWT and other participating employers. As it is not possible to reliably estimate the value of any potential liability, no provision has been made for this in the financial statements above the setting aside of a designated fund to cover the net present value of the deficit recovery payments which RSWT continues to make on an ongoing basis (as described in Note 23)."

25. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The Trust is affiliated to The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT), a registered Charity that acts as an umbrella group for county wildlife trusts, and provides assistance and co-ordination of activities and campaigning at a UK level. An annual contribution is payable to RSWT, included within Charitable expenditure, amounting to £46,200 (2022: £46,200). The Trust also purchased publications and other sundries from the RSWT amounting to £16,149 (2022: £14,984). The Trust also made sales to RSWT of £3,378 (2022: £5,587). At the year-end there was a balance of £3,354 (2022: £2,441) due to RSWT.

South West Wildlife Fundraising Ltd (SWWFL), a company which the Trust has invested in to boost membership recruitment and has an employee on the Board, M Perry. The Trust paid £151,963 (2022: £178,419) to SWWFL for services in the year and there was a balance due to SWWFL of £Nil (2022: £Nil) at the year end.

The Worcester Biological Records Centre (WBRC) is a separate legal entity operating on the Trust's site. G H Green, Trustee of the Trust, is also a trustee of WBRC. During the year the WBRC paid WWT rent of £1,000 (2022: £1,000) and WWT paid WBRC £11,600 (2022: £11,600) the majority of which was for an SLA. At the year end, £Nil (2022: £Nil) was due to the Trust. WNCT Enterprises paid WBRC £2,400 (2022: £2,400) during the year which was for an SLA, there was no balance due at the year end.

Vale Landscape Heritage trust is a registered charity which has trustees in common on the board, R Gillmor & G H Green. During the year, the Trust received £Nil (2022: £493). There were no balances due at the year-end (2022: Nil)

All connected transactions occurred at arm's length.

