



2025-2026





Chair's Report



It is my great pleasure to present this year's Annual Report as Chair of Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT). This has been a year of determination and progress as we continue to deliver Our Wild Sussex, our strategy for 2024–2030. Yet we remain acutely aware that the challenge before us is urgent and immense.

Our ambition to see at least 30% of Sussex's land and sea protected and in recovery by 2030 is not simply aspirational; it is essential. Nature across the county continues to face profound pressures from habitat loss, climate change and declining biodiversity. These challenges reinforce the need to act at scale, at pace, and in partnership with others.

Despite this stark context, there are real and encouraging signs of progress. Across Sussex, our teams, partners and communities are demonstrating what can be achieved when we combine strong science with collective action. This was instrumental in our challenge of the Marine Management Organisation's (MMO) licence approval for dumping dredge spoil in the Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone. At sea, the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project continues to stand as one of the UK's most ambitious marine rewilding initiatives. This pioneering work is not only restoring habitats but also influencing national conversations about marine protection.

Engaging people with nature remains at the heart of our work. Through initiatives such as our youth-led and inclusive nature reserve at The Deneway in Brighton, our Gatwick Greenspace Partnership and our Wilder Community Champions, we are connecting thousands of volunteers, schools and community groups with the natural world, and delivering conservation action alongside education and wellbeing benefits. We continue to inspire the next generation through these creative projects and enable local people of all ages to take lasting, practical and well-informed community-based action for nature.

Left: Bio-beads petition handover at 10 Downing Street © Office of Helena Dollimore MP

Below: Short-snouted Seahorse
© Paul Naylor



This progress is only possible because of the extraordinary support we receive. Our growing membership, generous donors and successful appeals, are enabling us to restore habitats, create wildlife corridors and plan for the return of lost species. Equally vital are our volunteers, whose time, skills and passion underpin so much of what we achieve.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our staff and leadership team. Their commitment, expertise and energy continue to drive this organisation forward and ensure that we remain ambitious in our vision for Sussex. With the retirement of Chris Corrigan as CEO in April, we welcomed Nic Scothern as the new CEO to lead the delivery of our strategy to 2030.

While we celebrate the progress made this year, we do so with humility and realism. Nature's recovery is not yet secured, and the scale of change required remains significant. However, what gives me confidence is the growing movement of people, partners and communities working together for a wilder Sussex.

With your continued support, we believe that a future where nature is thriving across Sussex is within reach – not only for today, but for generations to come.

Nitin Pasricha
Chair

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual Trustees' report, together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity, for the year ending 31 March 2026. These are also prepared with the purpose of meeting the legal requirements for a Trustees' report and accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

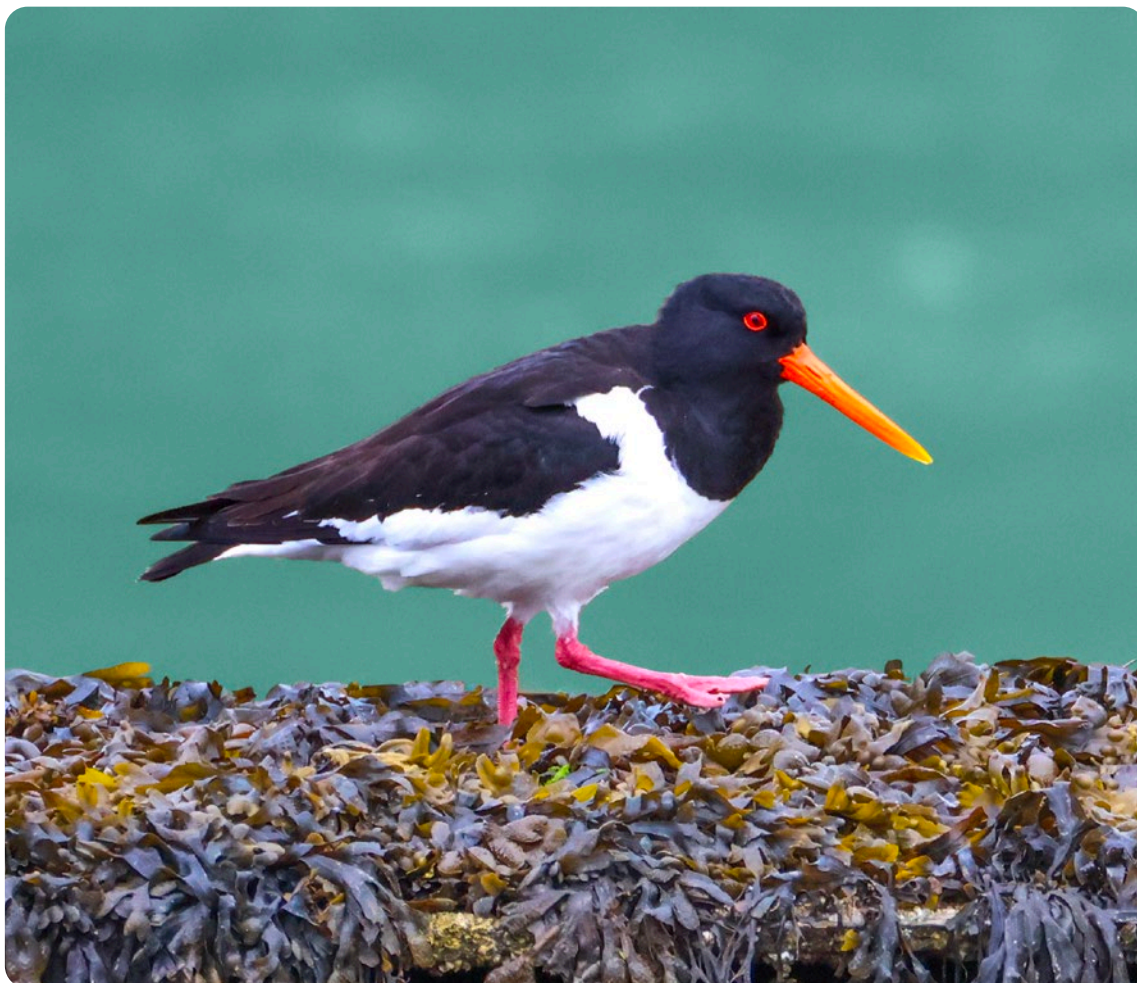
The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic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

Objectives:

Sussex Wildlife Trust's (SWT) objects, as detailed in our Articles of Association 2023, are for the benefit of both wildlife and the public:

- To conserve, restore and enhance the wildlife of Sussex, including that in its coastal waters. In particular, to conserve species and the habitats and landscapes in which they occur, including the restoration, creation, and interconnection of such habitats
- To promote the protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- To promote and advance public education about, understanding of, connection to, and action in support of, the natural environment and its benefits

With regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the provision of such benefit is an integral part of each of our charitable objectives.



Right: Wildlife Rangers with Gatwick Greenspace Partnership

© Roz Bassford

Left: Oystercatcher

© Kai Hilton

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance
of the Trust's work



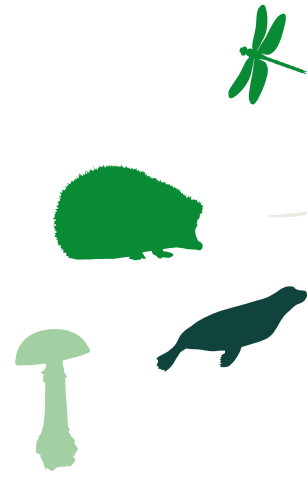
Diverse groups and individuals take action for wildlife and wild places across Sussex

The Communities team continues to support a wide range of schools, groups, individuals, charities and volunteers across both terrestrial and marine environments. Over the past year, we have continued to adapt and develop our offer in response to community needs, ensuring it is relevant and effective across different areas of interest. This has primarily included training in areas such as survey skills, habitat management, school grounds improvement, and engaging others with nature, including Forest School and Wild Beach training.

Our events and courses programme is wide-ranging, including in-person events, webinars and experiences on our nature reserves. Beyond this, our Engagement Officers have developed

new opportunities through Wilder Champions – individuals or groups across Sussex who support our work in ways that reflect their own interests, such as caring for local green spaces, leading beach litter surveys or campaigning for nature.

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre provided a warm welcome to over 200,000 visitors during this financial year. The flexibility of the building enabled these visitors to enjoy a range of courses and educational activities, as well as innovative arts and musical events, each developed to introduce new audiences to the wonders of the natural world. Keen to understand blocks to accessing the site, we have already made changes to the Centre's layout, including new Desk Magnifiers, donated by East Sussex Vision Support, to help those with sight loss to birdwatch, as well as robust mobility scooters, available to hire free of charge to explore the reserve.



Wild Beach training

© Kai Hilton



Planting wildflowers at The Deneway © Archie Taplin

In 2025, we secured several grants, including National Lottery Heritage Fund support for The Deneway's Wild Future project that started in April 2025. The three-year funding strengthens our youth-led reserve, enabling more young people to help manage the site, and supports two Community Engagement Traineeships, a local volunteer group, accessible pathways, biodiversity improvements, and wider access for local community groups and charities. The Deneway offers a safe, supportive environment that helps reduce barriers to engaging with nature, and it has also provided research opportunities for university students.

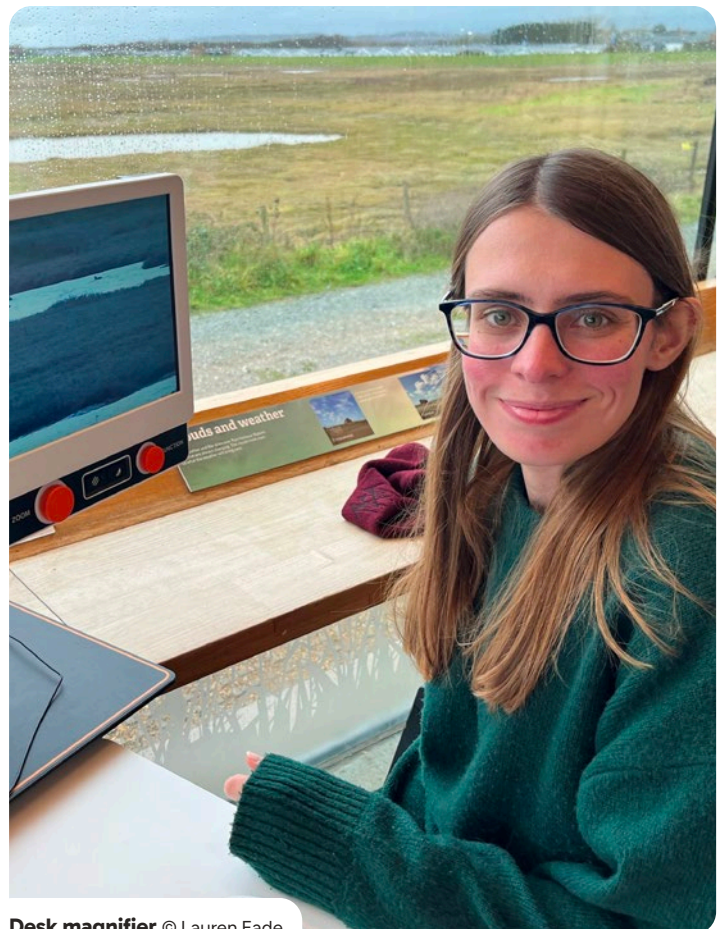
We also secured a second National Lottery Heritage Fund grant for Wild About Inclusion, a three-year project supporting our commitment to becoming a more inclusive and diverse organisation. The funding enables us to recruit a dedicated Project Manager to strengthen inclusive practice across Sussex Wildlife Trust and help the Communities Team engage a wider range of people in taking meaningful action for nature. It also funds a mobile welfare vehicle, improving access to remote reserves and reducing barriers for members, supporters, and community groups.

A key area of focus this year has been developing pathways into conservation, creating more opportunities for people to gain skills, build experience and progress into employment within the sector. This has included funded internships, work experience, an increased number of traineeships, and funded training opportunities such as Forest School and Wild Beach. This work has been made possible through a combination of successful grant applications and generous legacy donations. Working with Youth Unemployment Hubs has

been particularly rewarding, offering a career in conservation to young people who hadn't previously thought it possible.

Our youth work continues to grow and expand, with a focus on developing a wider suite of opportunities. Our Youth Action Officer has worked across the Trust to support colleagues finding opportunities to engage young people. Established projects such as the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership and the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre team, have been pivotal in sharing their skills and experiences. We now have two young Trustees and a thriving Youth Forum.

We continued to mobilise strong public support for nature recovery through targeted campaigns, engaging both new and existing audiences. A total of 24,698 actions were taken by the public across our campaigns, highlighting a significant appetite for active environmental lobbying, and our ongoing campaign to ban bio-beads in wastewater treatment, continues to demonstrate substantial public backing for proactive environmental protection.



Desk magnifier © Lauren Eade

Restore abundant wildlife across large scale landscapes and the sea

During the 2025/26 reporting period, early wildlife monitoring at Pevensey Levels demonstrated the immediate impact of last year's habitat creation. This success raised ambition across the team, directly informing the spring 2026 launch of the Wild Sussex programme, which will continue until 2030. Wild Sussex is an ambitious plan to transform our most iconic landscapes and marine habitats to ensure nature is in recovery across Sussex by 2030. We want to restore and create "wildlands" focused around six flagship nature reserves with some of the most important habitats in Sussex, including ancient woodlands, wetlands, and chalk downlands. At sea, we want to restore vital marine ecosystems and defend protected areas. Most importantly, Wild Sussex will harness natural solutions to a changing climate, providing natural flood and drought management, and storing vast amounts of carbon, helping people and wildlife to thrive.

Much of the year has been focused on developing delivery models and partnerships for these areas. The most advanced is at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, where the new management plan sets out ambitious targets to triple the protected area for breeding birds, while enhancing wetland mosaics, saline lagoons, visitor experience and more.

Alongside our work on our own sites, we continue to deliver at scale in the wider landscape. The Wilder Horsham District and Wilder Ouse projects have both expanded their reach and impact, deepening engagement with landowners and communities. Over the past year, the Wilder Horsham District team made over 70 landowner visits and delivered 30+ volunteer work parties, creating vital stepping stones for nature across the Horsham District. An increasing proportion of these site visits are now repeat engagements, as initial plans evolve into delivery, demonstrating the value of long-term, trusted relationships. Reflecting this success, Horsham District Council has this year extended its funding, recognising the benefits for both wildlife and local communities.





Sussex Kelp Recovery Project Summit © Kai Hilton

The Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative has also continued to strengthen the ecological network across Sussex. Working with a specialist team, SWT supports the annual programme for the monitoring of 600+ Local Wildlife Sites, advising landowners and communities on practical actions to enhance biodiversity on these precious sites.

During the year, significant progress was also made in preparing for the return of free-living Beavers to Sussex. Through the Sussex Beaver Advisory Group, we have helped develop a county-wide approach, progressed our own licence application, and supported catchment-based Beaver champions. We hope that we have everything lined up for a 2026 return of free-living Beavers.

The Sussex Kelp Recovery Project (SKRP) marked five years of recovery in March 2026. This nature-led marine restoration continues to provide a powerful model for recovery at sea, with clear ecological gains, including the return of Blue Mussel beds and improvements in seabed biodiversity. SWT remains proud to champion this work as Chair and Coordinator of SKRP. We work closely with a range of dedicated partners, across sectors, to collectively ensure we are taking a nature-led and evidenced approach and sharing everything we can with our Sussex Coastal Communities.

A major highlight this year was the successful quashing of the Brighton Marina licence to dispose of dredge spoil within a Marine Protected Area, following a Judicial Review. Working in partnership

with the Environmental Law Foundation, No5 Chambers and Leigh Day, SWT helped build a strong and compelling case, demonstrating our role as an effective advocate for nature. In early 2026 the Marina resubmitted an application, with over 6,000 SWT supporters submitting their objections directly to the licensing body, the Marine Management Organisation. Sussex Wildlife Trust worked hard to see our Marine Conservation Zones designated, and we will continue to do everything we can to ensure the success of these protected areas for the special marine ecosystems they support.



**Right:
Norfolk Hawker**
© Polly Mair

Left: Beaver
© David Plummer

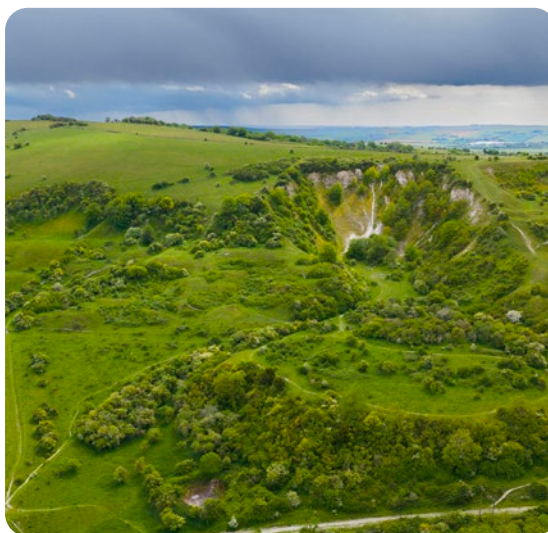


Create climate resilient landscapes and thriving wildlife habitats

This year, one of the standout wildlife successes has been the breeding Lapwing at Pevensey, a significant milestone, when you consider that a year previously the site was in the midst of extensive work with excavators. However, this is just the beginning of a much longer restoration journey at Pevensey Levels. Over time, we aim to see the return of characteristic wetland plants such as Water Soldier and Water Violet. Alongside this, surveys for Fen Raft Spider and dragonflies have been undertaken this year, with the Norfolk Hawker emerging as a particular highlight.

It has also been a remarkable year at Seaford Head, notably marked by a visit from His Majesty King Charles III during the launch of the Seven Sisters National Nature Reserve, part of the King's Series of National Nature Reserves. Grazing is fundamental to the health of chalk grassland habitats, yet for four years we were unable to graze cattle due to disease risks — during which time our volunteers played a crucial role in controlling scrub. This year, we were delighted to restore grazing through a partnership with a local farmer, introducing five British Albion cattle back onto the site.

At Malling Down and Southerham Farm, wildlife surveys revealed an unexpected sighting of Shelduck, alongside familiar species, such as Yellowhammer, Whitethroat and Corn Bunting. The continued presence of Raven and Peregrine Falcon remains a highlight on these hills. Significant habitat work has been carried out through the year, with areas of scrub cleared to benefit grassland species. Following initial clearance with brushcutters, volunteers removed cut material before grazing



Above: Seven Sisters National Nature Reserve

© Lloyd Lane

Left: Malling Down Nature Reserve

© Stuart Conway

animals helped maintain these areas. This restoration has reached an exciting stage, with the national charity Buglife confirming the site as suitable for the reintroduction of the UK's rarest bush cricket, the Wart-biter. The first 32 were introduced this year. We will be working closely with Buglife to establish a strong and sustainable population in the years ahead.

At Old Lodge on Ashdown Forest, visitors have once again enjoyed sightings of Belted Galloway calves and the striking Golden-ringed Dragonfly. The reserve's network of around 30 ponds supports an extraordinary diversity of species. This year, we were also able to install new owl boxes with support from the legacy of Dr Barrie Watson, who led Barn Owl ringing efforts in Sussex for many decades. The site continues to support an impressive range of wildlife, including Raven, Hobby, Dartford Warbler and Tree Pipit.

Probably the most important development over the course of this year has been the focused approach to the future. Maintaining nature reserve quality is a given, but renewing how we are approaching sites is, for some sites, overdue. Can we do more, can we do better, can we think differently? Can we address longstanding issues? Through the year, technical specialists from across the organisation have been coming together to plan our biggest nature recovery ambitions yet. Six of the seven geographical areas we are focused on are centred around nature reserves, but their influence will involve close work with our neighbours.



Belted Galloway calf at Old Lodge © Ros Moss



Wart-biter Bush-cricket © Graeme Lyons

Plans for the future

Together with our members, volunteers, supporters, and partners, we have achieved significant progress for nature over the past year. However, we remain in the midst of a nature and climate crisis. If we are to secure a future where wildlife thrives across Sussex, we must act with urgency, ambition, and at scale.

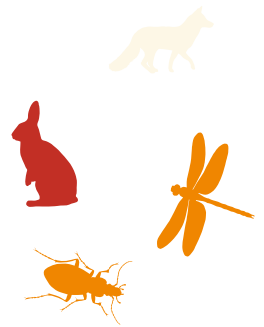
Our vision is clear: a Sussex rich in wildlife, valued and protected by everyone. Achieving this will require a bold, collective effort. We know that people are at the heart of what we do. We are already part of a movement of members, supporters, volunteers, landowners, local groups and organisations who are all working together to save nature in many ways and, over the coming years, we will focus on building a larger, more diverse, people-powered movement, where every action and every voice contributes to restoring and protecting nature.

Restoring wildlife at scale across land and sea

Working with volunteers and partners, we will continue to deliver practical conservation that supports wildlife recovery across Sussex. Our habitat restoration work will prioritise species recovery, including key species such as Wart-biter Bush-Crickets, breeding Lapwing and Peregrine Falcons. We also hope to see the introduction of free-living Beavers in Sussex, supporting wider ecosystem recovery. Alongside this, we are continuing to explore green finance opportunities to expand habitat restoration and secure long-term management of land for wildlife.

Partnership working will be central to delivering nature at scale. By working with landowners, farmers, organisations and local authorities, we will provide practical conservation support, advice, and guidance, and help deliver habitat creation – including hedgerows, trees and ponds – as well as natural flood management solutions, such as leaky dams.

Our work at sea remains equally critical, and as Chair and Coordinator of the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project, we will continue to lead the UK's largest marine rewilding initiative, restoring habitats, strengthening the evidence base, and engaging coastal communities.



Above:
Beach School
Littlehampton
Gordons School

© Roz Bassford

Left: Volunteers making leaky dams

© Harriet Trueman

Right: Peregrine

© Peter Brooks



Mobilising action for nature

The recovery of wildlife depends on people, and strengthening the connection between communities and the natural world is essential to inspiring long-term action. Our volunteers, members, and supporters are the lifeblood of SWT, and, without them, we wouldn't be able to make the impact for nature that we do.

We will support a wide range of ways for people to get involved with the fight for nature, including citizen science, practical conservation, campaigning and everyday action for nature. Our ambition is to create a generation of nature champions, supported through our networks of volunteers, community groups and partners. Our reserves, alongside the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership and The Deneway community reserve, will continue to engage thousands of volunteers, schools and community groups, helping them to connect with nature and take meaningful action.

Through our Wild Learning programme, we will build a growing network of teachers and schools, enabling young people to connect with nature and play an active role in its care, whilst also expanding training opportunities through our Wild Beach and Forest School programmes.





Protecting nature and campaigning for change

In the face of continued pressure on Sussex's habitats, we will remain committed to defending the most important places for wildlife. Our priorities for the coming year include challenging the dumping of dredge spoil in the Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone, campaigning for a ban on bio-beds in wastewater treatment filters and supporting Wilder Community Campaigners to act locally. Empowering communities to speak up for nature will be critical, and through targeted training and support we will enable more people to advocate for the places that matter most to them and their communities.



Inclusion at our core

We recognise that achieving our ambition for nature will only be possible if we engage a broader and more diverse range of people.

Over the coming year, we will focus on removing barriers to participation, creating more inclusive opportunities for action, and ensuring that our spaces and programmes are welcoming to all. Key initiatives will include launching the Wild About Inclusion project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, improving accessibility, and expanding inclusive engagement at The Deneway Nature Reserve.

Through our Wilder Community Champions programme, we will build a growing network of individuals leading local action and strengthening the wider movement. We will also make it easier for people to take part through improved digital engagement, including clearer pathways on our website and social media.

Net Zero and climate resilience

We are working at pace to become a Net Zero organisation by 2030, a commitment that will require significant changes to how we operate. This includes reducing emissions, electrifying our vehicles and equipment, adopting lower-emission fuels, transforming our travel and commuting behaviours, and moving to more energy efficient premises.

We have already made strong progress, including relocating to a more efficient office space at The Keep, installing solar panels at Rye Harbour Discovery Centre and Southerham Barn, introducing

Above:
Raising our voice
for nature

© Kai Hilton

Left:
Mobility scooter
hire at Rye Harbour

© Bobbie Lane

Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as a lower emission fuel, and promoting car sharing to reduce travel emissions.

The impacts of climate change are already evident, with more frequent extremes in weather, and in response we are increasing water retention across our nature reserves, building on work at Woods Mill and Pevensey Levels, and supporting nature-based solutions such as Beaver activity. Together, these measures help to store water, slow flows, and reduce flood risk, strengthening the resilience of both habitats and communities.

Together, we are nature's turning point

This coming year, we will be focusing on bold and ambitious action by building a movement to deliver large-scale restoration projects on land and at sea. We need to help activate and inspire a diverse group of people and communities to take meaningful action for wildlife so that nature in Sussex can thrive. With the support from our members, volunteers, and partners, we can make this happen.



Donated services

We were very pleased during the year to receive the following pro-bono support:

- Website support from Million Monkeys to the value of £6,048 (2025 £6,048).
- From March 2025, use of a nine-seater electric minibus from Toyota, for community activities, to the value of £4,560 (2025 £317).



Above:
Youth Trustee,
Milly Rudling
© Archie Taplin

Right: Rye Harbour
Discovery Centre
Solar panel
installation
© Solar Dynamics

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act and is governed by its Articles of Association adopted on 1st December 2023.

Organisation

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is governed by its Council, which is responsible for setting policies, ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Articles of Association of SWT and the Companies Act 2006. SWT also operates three Committees comprising the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, the Governance & Nominations Committee and the Strategy Implementation Committee. The CEO, under delegated powers, undertakes the routine management of SWT.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Trustees (who are also Directors of the charity) are elected by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At each AGM, one third of the Directors must retire by rotation, with those who have been longest in office since their last appointment, retiring first. Directors can offer themselves for re-election, but no Director shall serve for a period of more than nine consecutive years. On the expiration of such a period and the retirement of the relevant Director, a further year must lapse before that person shall be eligible for re-election to the Council. Nominations for new Trustees are considered each year prior to the AGM and are put forward for election at the AGM. When considering co-opting Trustees, the SWT Council has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an induction programme. During the induction, they meet the CEO and Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and other employees, and gain an understanding of their legal obligations with regards to charity and company law, the Articles of Association and the structure of the committee system. They are advised of appropriate Trustee training courses and are encouraged to attend.

Trustee review and evaluation

During the year, we undertook an internal evaluation of our governance which used the National Council for Voluntary Organisation's (NCVO) governance wheel tool, which uses the seven Charity Governance Code principles as performance measures. Whilst the findings affirmed good practice across most of the principles, it did highlight a need to strengthen our work on diversity, which was taken forward as a target area of focus for our successful Trustee recruitment programme by the Governance & Nominations Committee.

Environmental, social and corporate governance

We ensure our conservation work has the maximum benefit for wildlife in Sussex. We protect and restore natural habitats for both people and wildlife. However, to ensure we have the

greatest positive impact, we aim to reduce our environmental footprint through our systems, policies and ways of working, and undertake best practice as an employer to support our staff and volunteers in delivering their roles. This includes:

1 Environmental

- Working with Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) to report annually using the Green House Gas Protocol to calculate our organisation's emissions
- Working to a SWT carbon emission reduction pathway to 2030
- Carrying out risk assessments and emergency plans for all buildings and nature reserves

2 Social

- Working to industry best practice Health and Safety protocols and aiming for a culture of continuous improvement
- Employee benefits including above statutory sick pay, annual leave allowances, flexible working and pension provision
- Staff consultation forms a key part of decision making
- Working to improve diversity within our staff and volunteer teams

3 Governance

- Working with the Charity Governance Code to develop high standards of integrity and accountability
- Developing our Trustee recruitment and induction processes to promote wider diversity and inclusion
- Regular Trustee skills audits with recruitment, linked to identified skills gaps to ensure succession planning

Remuneration of Senior Leadership Team

Trustees delegate the management of SWT to the CEO. The CEO heads a Senior Leadership Team which includes operational Directors. These are considered to be the key management personnel of the Trust. Remuneration for the SLT is reviewed annually and includes a benchmark review of all 46 Wildlife Trusts and, where available, other similar sized charities operating in the southeast, managing similar levels of operational complexity.

The Wildlife Trusts partnership

SWT is a member of The Wildlife Trusts Partnership (registered as the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, registered charity number 207238) which acts as an umbrella body carrying out lobbying and public relations on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts. The charity has the use of The Wildlife Trusts logo and benefits from the resources, best practice and speciality experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives us a national voice and profile, as well as being known by association for those unfamiliar with our particular work. However, each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance and operations.

Financial Review

Our external political and funding environment continues to be challenging, but thanks to the generosity of our supporters, SWT's financial performance has been strong again this year, with an unrestricted surplus before adjustments and transfers of £232k.

Total income for the year increased against last year to an impressive £8.01m (a 11% increase against last year's £7.23m). We had another excellent year of legacy income (£2.3m), but also achieved a better donation income, a higher return on our cash deposits, secured additional grant income for connecting people with nature and also achieved greater trading income which increased by 6%.

Unrestricted income rose to £5.3m (compared to £5.2m in 2024/25) designated income reached £1.37m and restricted income fell to £1.3m (£1.7m for last financial year).

We also received income during the year which we have designated for special purposes. This included revenue for the sale of our Woods Mill office, the income generated from our Biological Recording Centre work and the non-cash receipt for a land legacy.

We continued our focus on delivering the Strategy and generating interest in our work, recruitment of members and supporters and other fundraising activities, and achieved larger visitor numbers at our Rye Harbour Discovery Centre, all of which helped drive up our unrestricted income for the year. We are indebted to those who have remembered us in their wills and are grateful for their huge generosity, which helps support our continued work with nature and people in Sussex. We have had to increase our spending on raising funds to £1.3m (£1.2m in 2024/25) this year as we have recruited more members, but have reduced the running costs for our Rye Harbour Discovery Centre to £750k (£824k in 2024/25).

Despite inflation, our expenditure remained at a similar level to last year £6.7m (2024/25 £6.7m). Our expenditure did cover much needed improvements and repairs to our premises and vehicles, and spending on our other Net Zero aimed projects. In addition, we also made essential investment in our digital transformation, including the development of our cyber security and website. Our unrestricted expenditure rose by 4% to £5.1m (£4.9m for 2024/25) and our restricted expenditure of £1.1m fell against last year (£1.5m for 2024/25) and covered expenditure related to our grant funded activities and nature reserves.

Our capital expenditure included an investment in electric, farm and hybrid vehicles, and additional security equipment required for our grazing and nature reserves operations.

This has been a year of real progress, and we are immensely grateful to our staff and leadership team for the energy, resilience and commitment they have shown throughout a period of significant change. With our new strategic plan in place, new systems embedded and teams strengthened through recruitment, we are now fully aligned and well positioned to deliver our ambitions with confidence and long-term financial sustainability.

Having assessed these accounts and reviewed the income and expenditure forecast and three-year business plan, the Trustees consider the charity to be a going concern, on the basis that SWT has sufficient financial reserves to continue trading for the foreseeable future, including twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts.



Red Mason Bee © Paul Parsons

Reference and administrative details

Charity name: Sussex Wildlife Trust

Charity number: 207005

Company number: 00698851

Registered and Principal Office Address:

First Floor, The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton BN1 9BP

Auditor:

Price Bailey LLP
Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Herts
CM23 3BT

A resolution to appoint auditors to the charitable company will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Bank:

Barclays PLC	CAF Bank	The Co-operative
The Old Bank	30 Old Broad	Bank PLC
High Street	Street	1 Balloon Street
Lewes	London	Manchester
East Sussex	EC2N 1HT	M4 4BE
BN7 2JP		

Directors and Trustees:

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 elected Trustees serving during the year and since the year-end were as follows:

Nitin Pasricha	<i>Chair of Council</i>
Andrew Clinton	<i>Secretary and Vice Chair</i>
Mark Braithwaite	<i>Treasurer and Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee</i>
Martin Kyndt	<i>Chair of the Governance & Nominations Committee</i>
Helen Marshall	<i>Chair of the Strategy Implementation Committee</i>
Dr Sean Ashworth	<i>until 17th September 2025</i>
Danielle Harvey	
Mark Mallalieu	
Louise McLoughlin	
David Plummer	
Morwenna Trevena	<i>from 17th September 2025</i>
Stephanie Bright	<i>from 17th September 2025</i>
Emily Rudling	<i>from 17th September 2025</i>
Kathy Hughes	<i>from 3rd December 2025</i>

President

Dr Tony Whitbread

Vice Presidents

Mr Robin Crane CBE

Dr Lisbet Rausing

Mr David Streeter OBE

Senior Leadership Team

Nic Scothern	<i>CEO from 7th April 2026</i>
Chris Corrigan	<i>CEO until 31st March 2026</i>
Henri Brocklebank	<i>Director – Conservation</i>
Angela Croucher	<i>Director – Finance & Operations</i>
Nikki Hills	<i>Director – Communities</i>
Polly Kitson	<i>Acting Director – Communities</i>
Caroline Pearce	<i>Director – Fundraising and Communications</i>

Financial performance highlights:

Total Income £8.01m (2024/25 £7.23m)

Unrestricted Income £5.32m (2024/25 £5.21m)

- Donations and public appeals totalled £255k (2024/25 £288k)
- Legacy income of £1.37m received during the year (2024/25 £1.22m)
- Charitable activities £663k (2024/25 £815k)

Designated Income £1.37m (2024/25 £287k)

Restricted Income £1.32m (2024/25 £1.73m)

- Charitable activities £1.01m (2024/25 £1.28m)

Total expenditure £6.73m (2024/25 £6.68m)

Raising Funds £1.3m (2024/25 £1.2m)

- Additional expenditure due to the costs of membership recruitment

Charitable Activities £4.64m (2024/25 £4.61m)

Membership

We saw an overall increase in membership numbers in 2025-26 of 475 memberships. This was due to an improvement in retention and excellent performance in both digital and face-to-face membership recruitment. We also ended the year with an additional 434 individual members, which represents an increase of 1.13% compared to a 0.91% increase in the previous year. Income from membership was £2,057,140, a 4% increase against the previous year. On 31st March 2026, the number of members was 38,747 (2024/25 38,313).

Designated funds allocated

Expenditure during the year was mainly for the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and Local Wildlife Site staffing and other expenditure, our Net Zero projects and costs associated with the sale of the Woods Mill office and move to The Keep.

Capital Projects

SWT invested in two new electric vehicles and two off-road vehicles which have replaced older, higher carbon emission vehicles which had come to the end of their useful life. Other items of expenditure involved necessary computer and plant, security and machinery upgrades.

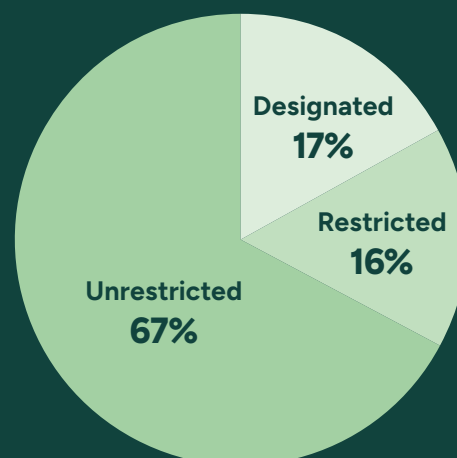
Retained Funds £16.9m (2024/25 £15.4m)

Our total funds at year-end were £16.9m, of which £4.8m are restricted funds and £12.1m unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds include funds tied up in tangible and heritage assets, funds set aside for specific designated projects and readily usable funds of £2.4m, including cash of £1.8m.

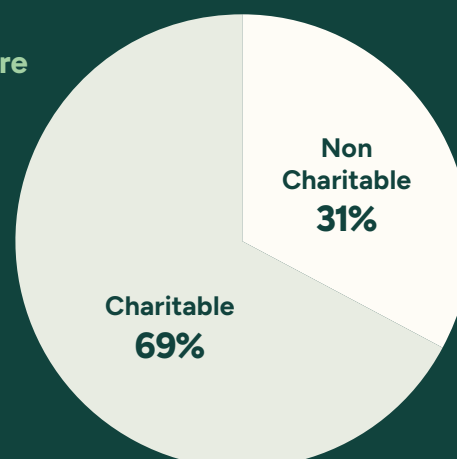
For the year ahead we have identified crucial areas of investment for us to achieve our strategic aims and have also set aside a land purchase fund of £600k which will kickstart our future acquisition ambitions.

Details of all our income can be found on page 26 of the Annual Accounts.

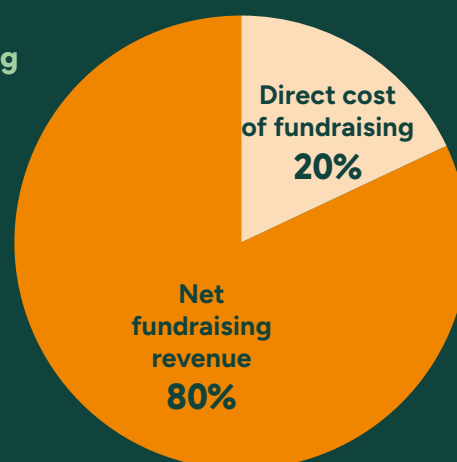
Income



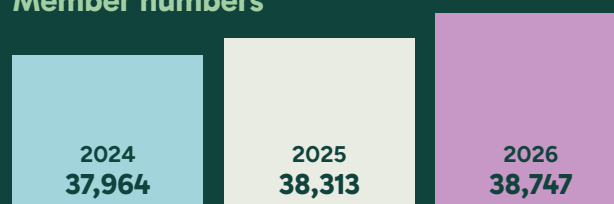
Expenditure



Fundraising Revenue



Member numbers



Principal risks and uncertainties

Trustees have prioritised the management of risk in view of the ongoing economic challenges of increasing costs and economic uncertainty. There has been a further review of the risk register to ensure the principal risks are clear and can be managed and have identified the following main risks:

- Changes in national environmental policy and the local government reorganisation may affect decision-making, funding opportunities, partnership working and the delivery of SWT's strategic objectives.
- As a high-profile conservation organisation, SWT's reputation could be affected by associations with partner organisations, donors or stakeholders whose activities or values are perceived to conflict with those of SWT.
- SWT recognises that diversity remains limited across many areas of its work, including its workforce, volunteer base, membership and engagement with local communities. Failure to address this could limit SWT's effectiveness, relevance and long-term sustainability.
- SWT may not achieve its ambition to reach net zero emissions within planned timescales. Challenges include limited opportunities for on-site renewable energy generation and continued reliance on private vehicle travel.
- SWT activities involve a range of operational hazards, and we recognise the importance of maintaining robust health and safety systems. Failure to do so could result in injury, operational disruption or reputational damage.
- The cyber threat landscape continues to evolve, increasing the risk of data breaches, operational disruption and financial loss.
- Increasing stakeholder expectations, including new SORP reporting requirements and the growing importance of movement-building activities, place greater emphasis on evidencing SWT's impact. Failure to demonstrate outcomes effectively could affect funding, influence and support.

Examples of mitigation undertaken include:

Financial

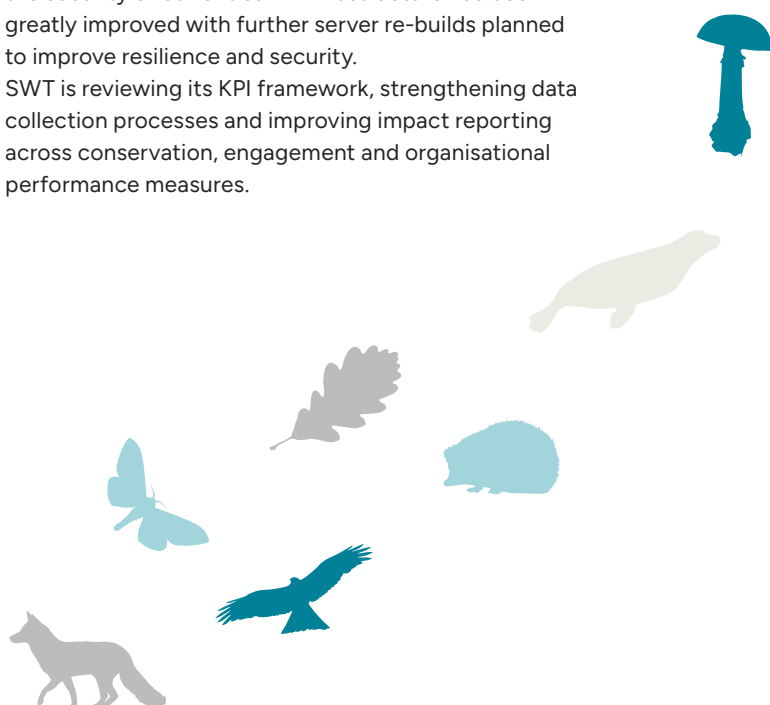
- Continuing to improve cost control throughout the year, improving delegated spending authorities, developing budget training and providing more accurate forecasting aligned to our delivery.
- Improving the quality, regularity, and accessibility of our financial information to improve cashflow management and decision making. A three-year business plan has been developed, alongside the strategic plan, to ensure financial sustainability.

Compliance

- A continued review and strengthening of project management processes, controls, and ways of working. This allowed SWT to continue to proceed with confidence on projects and programmes such as Our Wild Sussex.
- Ensuring a culture of compliance adherence and Health and Safety Action Plans are in place, developing a process of internal audit monitored through the Health & Safety Management Committee with regular reports to the Senior Leadership Team and Council.
- Updated Safeguarding Policies and Procedures and a nominated and trained staff/Trustee team in place.

Other risks

- Ensuring relevant changes to management practice are adopted regarding wildfire control and management. Ensuring the implications of climate change are factored into the preparation of all new reserve management plans.
- SWT is developing a policy and advocacy plan to strengthen engagement with decision-makers, influence policy development and ensure the Trust can respond effectively to changing political circumstances.
- Position statements have been developed for key issues, and individual risk assessments are undertaken before entering into significant partnerships or collaborations.
- A dedicated EDI project has commenced to identify barriers, improve representation and embed inclusive practices across the organisation.
- SWT is exploring off-site renewable energy options, opportunities for carbon reduction projects and initiatives to support greener staff travel and commuting.
- Staff awareness training is being strengthened and the security of our critical IT infrastructure has been greatly improved with further server re-builds planned to improve resilience and security.
- SWT is reviewing its KPI framework, strengthening data collection processes and improving impact reporting across conservation, engagement and organisational performance measures.



Financial reserves policy

During the year, the Trustees reviewed the financial reserves policy in line with current Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) requirements and relevant guidance. The policy, in place at the end of the financial year, is:

'The reserves policy requires unrestricted reserves to be maintained at a level which would allow the core work and activity of SWT to continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty and also provide us with opportunities to invest in line with our strategic priorities which includes potential land purchases. The reserves are held in a readily useable form; that is readily available or convertible to cash should the need arise.

The calculation of the minimum target reserves level is an integral part of the regular financial management, monitoring, and budgeting process. It considers items on the risk register, the financial cost of mitigating risks, variability, and the potential for fluctuation of budgeted income and expenditure levels, SWT's future commitments and potential strategic initiatives including land purchase. The main risks to income and expenditure are highlighted and a calculation made of the financial consequences of adverse movements. Our current calculation indicates a target minimum reserve level of £2.1m.'

At year-end our readily useable reserves were £2.4m. At this level, the Trustees feel that we would be able to continue our current activities in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Investment powers and policy

Under the Articles of Association, the charity has the power to deposit or invest funds. The investment policy is:

- To invest those surplus funds not required for immediate use.
- To obtain a reasonable income from those funds, given prevailing market returns.
- To invest only as permitted by the investment powers of SWT as set out in the Articles of Association.

During the year, SWT has continued to retain the majority of its funds on deposit and the Trustees are of the opinion that this policy has been a prudent one. The Trustees review the investment policy from time to time, but given our ongoing obligations, it has not been felt appropriate to change this approach in the past year. We are conducting a review of potential external investment managers to determine whether there are other preferable medium or longer term options for funds currently being held on deposit.

Professional fundraising practices

Sussex Wildlife Trust uses third party agencies to fundraise on its behalf for specific campaigns. In this financial year, this included a third party for recruiting new members to the organisation through private site face-to-face fundraising and a third party for recruiting new members through telephone fundraising. The charity has agreements in place with its partners to ensure that the legal requirements regulating fundraising practices are adhered to.

Council regularly reviews fundraising regulation compliance. Sussex Wildlife Trust is an organisational member of the Institute of Fundraising and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third-party agencies comply with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and are signed up to its Fundraising Promise. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third-party agencies follow the sector's guidance on protecting vulnerable people. Our Complaints Procedure complies with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and during the financial year, we received eight complaints about fundraising activity.



Fox cub © Phil Winter

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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 charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business. The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the charitable

company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for 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 auditor is unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

The Trustees' Annual Report is approved by order of the Council of Trustees and the Strategic Report included therein is approved by the Council of Trustees in their capacity as Directors at a meeting on 17th September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

On behalf of the Trustees



Nitin Pasricha *Chair*
First Floor, The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton BN1 9BP



Kingfishers © Phil Winter

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Sussex Wildlife Trust

for the Year ended 31 March 2026

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sussex Wildlife Trust (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cashflow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026, and of the 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 auditor 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 other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Strategic Report and the Director's Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and the Director's Report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report or the Director's Report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined

above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of the charitable company not complying with the applicable laws and regulations including fraud in particular those that could have a material impact on the financial statements. This included those regulations directly related to the financial statements, including financial reporting and tax legislation. In relation to the operations of the charitable company, this included compliance with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, and SORP 2019.

The risks were discussed with the audit team, and we remained alert to any indications of non-compliance through the audit. We carried out specific procedures to address the risks identified. These included the following:

Reviewing minutes of Board meetings, reviewing any correspondence with the Charity Commission, agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, and enquiries of management and officers of the charitable company. We have also reviewed the procedures in place for the reporting of any incidents to the Trustee Board including serious incident reporting of these matters as necessary with the Charity Commission.

To address the risk of management override of controls, we carried out testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness. We reviewed systems and procedures to identify potential areas of management override risk. We also assessed management bias in relation to the accounting policies adopted and in determining significant accounting estimates.

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

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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



Suzanne Goldsmith FCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of:
Price Bailey LLP
Statutory Auditor
Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire, CM23 3BT

Date:



Sundew © Wendy Ball

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year ended 31 March 2026 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

Company Number: 00698851

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	3,684,999	310,390	670,000	4,665,389	3,945,821
Other trading activities	3	799,218	-	-	799,218	751,974
Investments	4	175,140	-	-	175,140	157,919
Charitable activities	5	663,403	1,007,109	698,025	2,368,537	2,378,235
Total income		5,322,760	1,317,499	1,368,025	8,008,284	7,233,949
Expenditure on:						
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	6	749,625	-	-	749,625	824,078
Other costs of raising funds	6	1,325,455	6,634	-	1,332,089	1,244,910
Charitable activities	7	3,015,742	1,078,923	549,908	4,644,573	4,607,006
Total expenditure		5,090,822	1,085,557	549,908	6,726,287	6,675,994
Net income / (expenditure)		231,938	231,943	818,117	1,281,996	557,954
Other Gains / Losses	14	212,431	-	-	212,431	-
Transfers between funds	17	(641,968)	-	641,968	-	-
Net movement in funds		(197,600)	231,943	1,460,085	1,494,427	557,955
Reconciliation of funds						
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2025		9,440,288	4,594,592	1,323,568	15,358,446	14,800,491
Balances carried forward at 31 March 2026		9,242,688	4,826,534	2,783,653	16,852,874	15,358,446

The notes on pages 29 to 45 form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2026

Company Number: 00698851

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	5,879,521	5,244,988
Heritage assets	12	3,938,960	3,938,960
Investments	13	100	100
Total fixed assets		9,818,580	9,184,048
Current assets			
Stock		28,395	26,305
Biological assets	14	461,372	288,950
Debtors	15	1,010,587	1,141,321
Cash at bank and in hand		5,914,822	5,104,971
Total current assets		7,415,176	6,561,547
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	380,882	387,149
Net current assets		7,034,550	6,174,398
Total net assets		16,852,874	15,358,446
Funds			
Unrestricted		9,242,688	9,440,287
Restricted		4,826,534	4,594,592
Designated		2,783,652	1,323,568
Total funds	19	16,852,874	15,358,446

The financial statements were approved by the Council of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17th September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr N. Pasricha
Chair



Mr M Braithwaite
Treasurer

The notes on pages 29 to 45 form part of these financial statements

Cash Flow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Net cash from operating activities			
Operating activities	a)	408,079	1,934,792
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		175,142	(157,919)
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		510,739	250
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(324,119)	(51,133)
Proceeds from sale of biological assets		66,899	-
Purchase of biological assets		(26,890)	-
Net cash from investing activities		401,769	(208,802)
Raising funds			
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	b)	809,851	1,725,990

Notes to the cash flow statement

a) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash flow from operating activities		2026 £	2025 £
Net cash from operating activities			
Operating activities	a)	408,080	1,618,954
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		175,140	157,919
Profit on sale of fixed assets		-	250
Non-cash legacy		-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(324,118)	(51,133)
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		510,739	-
Proceeds from sale of biological assets		66,889	-
Purchase of sale of biological assets		(26,890)	-
Net cash from investing activities		401,762	107,036
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	b)	809,851	1,725,990

a) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash flow from operating activities		2026 £	2025 £
Net (income) for the reporting period		1,281,998	557,955
Adjustments for:			
Non cash legacy		(670,000)	-
Depreciation		239,267	208,241
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		(175,140)	(157,919)
Profit on sale of fixed assets		(390,421)	(250)
Impairment of fixed assets		-	(651)
Increase/(Decrease) in stock		(2,090)	5,523
Increase/(Decrease) in biological assets		-	17,520
(Increase)/Decrease in trade and other debtors		130,734	1,004,179
(Increase)/Decrease in trade and other creditors		(6,267)	(15,697)
Net cash provided by operating activities		408,079	1,618,901
b) Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents		2026 £	2025 £
Balance at 1st April		5,104,971	3,378,981
Net cash inflow in the year		809,851	1,725,990
Balance at 31st March		5,914,822	5,104,971

The notes on pages 29 to 45 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2026

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Accounting convention

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

Sussex Wildlife Trust ("SWT") is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. Sussex Wildlife Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

As at 31 March 2026 the Sussex Wildlife Trust has £16.9m in Total Net Assets including £5.9m Cash at Bank of which £2.4m is restricted funding for future years' project activity. The Trustees have considered the appropriateness of the going concern assumption for the preparation of the financial statements, based on forecasts covering the period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements to September 2027.

b) Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receive it, and that the receipt of said income is measurable, and probable. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or is subject to unmet conditions wholly outside its control.

Grants from local authorities and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these amount to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use.

Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only recognized when its receipt is considered probable, when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity is entitled to the amount. Where legacies have been notified to the charity or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the

criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is disclosed as a contingent asset.

Subscriptions are dealt with on a cash receipts basis. Subscriptions of life members are included as a liability on the Balance Sheet in accordance with the SORP. One twentieth of this is transferred to income each year. Corporate Support includes annual subscriptions, sponsorship and donations received, while advertising revenue is generated through SWT's Wildlife magazine produced twice each year.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis, where the amount can be measured reliably.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis when a liability is incurred and there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment. While payments are in respect of a future period they are categorised as such.

- Raising funds includes expenditure on the recruitment of new members, the employee costs of the membership departments, the costs of the annual appeal and the administration costs of the membership department together with publicity costs and legacy development.
- Rye Harbour Discovery Centre costs include the total costs of running the shop, cafe and Visitor Centre and the depreciation costs associated with the building.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the main objects of the charity – these are wildlife conservation, public awareness, the management of nature reserves and the collation of wildlife information.
- Support Costs represent the cost of staff and overheads incurred in providing centralised services for the charity at its offices at The Keep premises and include the finance, human resources, office services departments and buildings maintenance. Support costs are allocated to departments on the basis of staff numbers.

d) Donated services and volunteers

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers this contribution is 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.

Volunteers play a critical role in SWT and contribute substantial time to its work. However, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised in these financial statements.

e) Tangible fixed assets

SWT's interests in tangible fixed assets other than land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost with an allowance for depreciation as stated below. Individual IT fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost, for other asset classes this rises to £1,000. Assets under construction are not depreciated until the asset is in use.

f) Heritage assets

SWT's interests in land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost; these have been classified as heritage assets and are held by SWT in pursuit of its conservation objectives. Valuations are made by professional valuers – the Valuation Office Agency – and any gifts of land will be treated as heritage assets and will be included at valuation. No depreciation is charged on nature reserves.

g) Investments

SWT had no Equity investments during the year other than its investment in its subsidiary company Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd. which was dormant throughout the current year and the previous year.

h) Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings, car park & services	2-10%
Temporary structures, fencing, etc.	20%
Motor vehicles	14%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	20%
Computer equipment	33%
Bird Hides	10%

i) Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

j) Livestock (biological assets)

Livestock is stated at fair value less estimated costs to sell in accordance with the fair value model in FRS 102. Movements in fair value are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) in the year in which they arise. Fair value is based upon the estimation of sales from the land management team and is considered by the Trustees to be fair reflection of the estimated value at the year end.

k) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are

donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Charity's work. The funds held in each of these categories are disclosed in Note 17.

l) Pension schemes

The employees of SWT are eligible to join the Royal London Wildlife Trust Group Pension Scheme. This is a defined contribution scheme. Employees contributions will be enhanced by a contribution from SWT which is at least twice the employee contribution. Contributions are charged to the SOFA as they become payable in accordance with the scheme rules.

The Wildlife Trust category 5 Scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme administered for the benefit of Wildlife Trusts and is managed in accordance with the Pensions Act 2004 Regulations.

The Trustees are unable to confirm the charity's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the Wildlife Trust Category 5 Pension Scheme and therefore the Scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period, if any were made.

A liability is recognised by SWT, where material, for the charity's share of the deficit of the scheme as per the agreed schedule of contributions. The Trustee commissioned an out-of-cycle triennial valuation of the scheme on 1 April 2024 in response to the recent legal advice confirming that the scheme closed to future Defined Benefit accrual on 30 June 2011 (and not 30 September 2005 as originally understood and administered). Based upon this report the deficit contribution is £35,000 which is not material and therefore has not been accrued in these financial statements. Payments of £nil per month are due between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2028 in relation to this historic liability and payments of £27.62 per month are due between 1 April 2028 and 31 March 2031.

m) Operating leases

In categorising leases as finance leases or operating leases, management makes judgements as to whether significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the Company as lessee, or the lessee, where the company is a lessor.

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

n) Non-recoverable VAT

Where possible non-recoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred. Otherwise it is charged to support costs.

o) Consolidation

The financial statements present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group. The subsidiary undertaking is dormant.

p) Cash at hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with short maturity of twelve months or less.

q) Financial instruments

SWT would only have financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of fixed assets which are measured at cost less depreciation.

r) 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.

A provision for impairment of trade debtors is established when there is evidence that the amounts due will not be collected according to the original terms of the contract. Impairment losses are recognised in the SOFA.

s) Creditors/liabilities

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.

t) Taxation

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 471 to 489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 and is exempt from corporation tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objects.

u) Redundancy and termination payments

Expenditure required to settle an obligation for redundancy and termination benefits is recognised as an expense when the charity is committed to terminate the employment of an employee, or provide redundancy and termination benefits.

v) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will,



Stonechat © John Lauper

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

Legacy Income

The recognition of legacy income requires management to make judgements and estimates regarding entitlement, probability of receipt and the ability to measure the amount receivable with sufficient reliability. Estimates are made in accordance with the principles set out in the Charities SORP and are based on information available from executors, solicitors and other relevant parties at the reporting date. Actual receipts may differ from the amounts recognised.

Valuation of biological assets

Biological assets are measured at fair value less estimated costs to sell in accordance with Section 34 of FRS 102. The valuation of livestock requires management to make assumptions regarding the market value of animals at the reporting date, including prevailing market prices and the classification of livestock by type and age. Changes in these assumptions may result in a material adjustment to the carrying value of biological assets and the gains or losses recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in future periods.

Income and endowments from:
2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	2026 TOTAL £	2025 TOTAL £
a. Income from members	2,057,140	-	-	2,057,140	1,987,441
b. Donations	247,411	30,374	-	277,785	222,896
c. Legacies	1,373,292	260,317	670,000	2,303,609	1,633,018
d. Public appeals	7,156	19,699	-	26,855	102,466
	3,684,999	310,390	670,000	4,665,389	3,945,821

3 Other trading activities

a. Corporate support	36,823	-	-	36,823	29,317
b. Other fundraising income	1,044	-	-	1,044	1,169
c. Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	761,351	-	-	761,351	721,488
	799,218	-	-	799,218	751,974

4 Investments

a. Deposit interest	175,140	-	-	175,140	157,919
	175,140	-	-	175,140	157,919

5 Charitable activities
Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex

a. Project grants	6,840	404,187	-	411,027	539,347
b. Rents, grazing income, sales of meat and timber	48,120	-	-	48,120	41,574
c. Grants and stewardship income	486,343	159,954	-	646,297	1,094,002
d. Other income	3,280	100	-	3,380	2,023
	544,583	564,241	-	1,108,824	1,676,946

Connect people with nature

e. Grants and income	1,368	437,770	-	439,138	254,369
f. Schools, events and courses	117,452	5,098	-	122,550	137,266
	118,820	442,868	-	561,688	391,635

Retain and develop a strong evidence base

g. Project grants and income	-	-	316,170	316,170	309,654
	-	-	316,170	316,170	309,654

Net Zero Strategy

h. Income from sale of Woods Mill	-	-	381,855	381,855	-
	-	-	381,855	381,855	-

Total income from charitable activities	663,403	1,007,109	698,025	2,368,537	2,378,235
TOTAL INCOME	5,322,760	1,317,499	1,368,025	8,008,284	7,233,949

Last year's total income of £7,233,949 was made up of £5,214,033 Unrestricted, £1,733,283 Restricted and £286,633 Designated split between the following:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £
Donations and legacies	3,499,899	445,922	-
Other trading	740,434	11,540	-
Investments	157,919	-	-
Charitable activities	815,781	1,275,821	286,633
Other	-	-	-

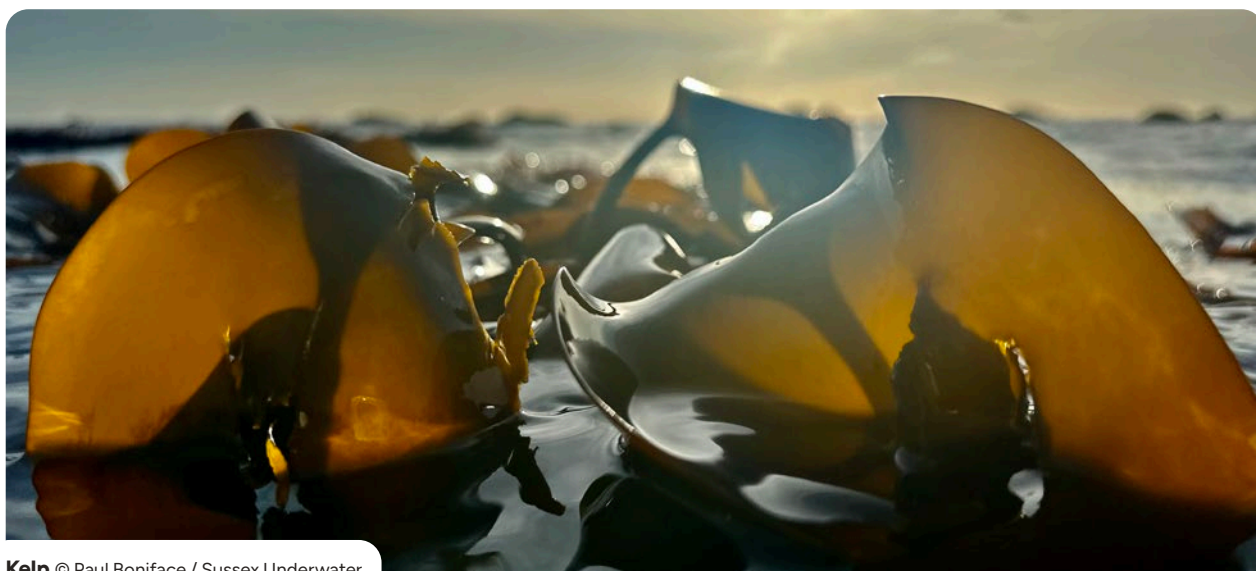
The Sussex Wildlife Trust has benefited from a small number of government grants and financial contributions during the year that support our conservation activity. The funding received, incorporates levels of conditional service and supports the management of our nature reserves.

	2026 £	2025 £
During the year this amounted to:		
Single Farm Payment	7,200	63,398
Higher Level Stewardship grant income	408,057	485,912

Expenditure on:

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	2026 TOTAL £	2025 TOTAL £
a. Staff costs	346,284	-	-	346,284	327,675
b. Membership promotion	490,081	-	-	490,081	333,021
c. Interpretation and website development	-	-	-	-	1,131
d. Other fundraising costs	15,968	-	-	15,968	43,590
e. Allocated support costs	473,122	6,634	-	479,756	539,494
	1,325,455	6,634	-	1,332,089	1,244,910
f. Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	749,625	-	-	749,625	824,078
	749,625	-	-	749,625	824,078



Kelp © Paul Boniface / Sussex Underwater

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	2026 TOTAL £	2025 TOTAL £
Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex					
a. Staff costs	741,836	347,455	8,613	1,097,904	925,632
b. Conservation work	472,653	337,253	6,000	815,906	1,197,916
c. Depreciation and other costs	85,346	11,999	-	97,345	98,828
d. Allocated support costs	535,521	-	-	535,521	586,700
	1,835,356	696,707	14,613	2,546,676	2,809,076
Connect people with nature					
e. Staff costs	569,650	315,646	-	885,296	705,607
f. Interpretation, education and other costs	102,065	66,570	41,319	209,954	175,512
g. Depreciation	48,683	-	-	48,683	56,556
h. Allocated support costs	323,378	-	-	323,378	387,761
	1,043,776	382,216	41,319	1,467,311	1,325,436
Retain and develop a strong evidence base					
i. Staff costs	-	-	281,821	281,821	245,953
j. Depreciation	-	-	2,335	2,335	2,437
k. Data recording	-	-	45,025	45,025	35,099
l. Other costs	-	-	8,571	8,571	17,043
m. Allocated support costs	136,610	-	-	136,610	171,964
	136,610	-	337,752	474,362	472,494
Net Zero Strategy					
n. Project Costs	-	-	143,540	143,540	-
o. Depreciation	-	-	12,684	12,684	-
	-	-	156,224	156,224	-
Total expenditure on charitable activities	3,015,742	1,078,923	549,908	4,644,573	4,607,006
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,090,822	1,085,557	549,908	6,726,287	6,675,994

Last year's total expenditure of £6,675,994 was made up of £4,915,787 unrestricted, £1,482,698 restricted and £277,509 designated, split between the following:

	Unrestricted 2026 £	Restricted 2026 £	Designated 2026 £	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Designated 2025 £
Raising funds	1,244,910	-	-	1,080,634	16,716	4,907
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	824,078	-	-	590,872	-	-
Charitable activities	2,846,799	1,482,698	277,509	2,691,211	1,316,429	18,039
	4,915,787	1,482,698	277,509	4,362,717	1,333,145	22,946

Trustees' Liability Insurance

SWT pays an annual insurance premium to:

- protect the charity from loss arising from the defaults of its Trustees, employees or agents
- indemnify the Trustees or other officers against the consequences of any act or default on their part

8 Allocation of support cost

SWT allocates its support costs as shown in the table below and then further apportions those costs between the four charitable activities undertaken. Support costs are allocated on the basis of staff numbers per department and where appropriate a percentage of time worked.

	Charitable activities			Charitable activities Total £	Raising funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
	Restore & protect at least 30% of Sussex £	Connect people with nature £	Retain & develop a strong evidence base £				
Management and central overheads	94,661	57,162	24,148	175,970	84,804	260,774	583,087
Finance department	95,919	57,922	24,469	178,310	85,931	264,241	194,122
Information technology	101,300	61,170	25,841	188,311	90,751	279,062	201,548
Human resources	58,516	35,335	14,927	108,778	52,423	161,201	186,882
General administration	68,015	41,071	17,350	126,437	60,932	187,369	242,931
Health and Safety/Buildings maintenance	87,290	52,711	22,267	162,268	78,200	240,468	198,629
Governance	29,820	18,007	7,607	55,435	26,715	82,150	78,719
	535,521	323,378	136,610	995,509	479,756	1,475,265	1,685,919

Governance costs include the costs of the annual financial audit and the administrative costs associated with running our Board of Trustees meetings including staff time.

9 Staff costs

Analysis of staff costs

	2026 £	2025 £
Salaries and wages	3,175,985	2,949,846
Social security costs	368,580	275,178
Pension costs	182,928	177,349
Redundancy and termination costs	5,413	43,095
	3,732,905	3,445,469

Salary band

	2026	2025
£80-90k	1	2
£60-70k	4	2

These employees were all in Key management personnel.

The Key management personnel received £372,309 (2025: £434,672) in employee benefits, including pension contributions.

Employer's National Insurance paid £46,520 (2025: £48,147)

Staff numbers

The average number of employees was 120 (2025: 111) with an average FTE of 91 (2025: 83)

	2026	2025
Management FTE	5	6
Other FTE	106	77

Other costs

In the current and prior year no travel, subsistence or training expenses were reimbursed to Trustees. One Trustee was remunerated in the current year as a tutor in Adult Education to the value of £1,080 (2025: £1,020)

10 Pension costs

Pension contributions

The pension charge shown in the accounts is the amount payable by the Trust during the financial year.

It is analysed as follows:

	2026 £	2025 £
Category 5 – Defined Benefit scheme	326	3,888
Total contributions to The Wildlife Trusts' Pension Scheme	326	3,888
Category 1 – Life assurance only (Standard Life)		
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	22,369	23,720
Royal London Group Pension scheme	160,555	153,786
Life Assurance Costs	6,970	6,402
	190,221	187,797

Pension contribution liabilities

The following pension contributions were payable at the year-end and are included within creditors:

	2026 £	2025 £
Royal London Group Pension scheme	23,529	15,242
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	3,169	4,811
	26,699	20,053

11 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2026 £	2025 £
Operating lease rentals	16,367	17,837
Depreciation	239,267	208,294
Auditors remuneration in respect of:		
Price Bailey LLP: Audit services	28,500	28,500
Profit on sale of assets	390,421	250



Wild Beach Training © Kai Hilton

12 Tangible and heritage fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Furniture, fixtures and equipment £	Plant & Machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Total tangible assets £	Heritage Assets £	TOTAL £
Cost							
At 1 April 2025	6,285,316	379,147	124,393	322,905	7,111,761	3,938,960	11,050,722
Historical adjustments	(3)	219	(821)	(2)	(607)	-	(607)
Additions	682,282	183,836	17,365	110,635	994,118	-	994,118
Disposals	(269,341)	(170,701)	(23,350)	-	(463,392)	-	(463,392)
At 31 March 2026	6,698,254	392,501	117,587	433,538	7,641,880	3,938,960	11,580,841
Depreciation							
At 1 April 2025	1,246,330	306,210	89,002	225,233	1,866,773	-	1,866,773
Historical adjustments	(853)	814	(1)		(40)		(40)
Charge for year	130,775	38,267	18,759	51,466	239,267	-	239,267
Disposals	(151,579)	(170,079)	(21,983)	-	(343,641)	-	(343,641)
At 31 March 2026	1,224,673	175,213	85,777	276,700	1,762,359	-	1,762,359
Net book value							
31 March 2026	5,473,581	217,288	31,810	156,838	5,879,521	3,938,960	9,818,482
Net book value							
31 March 2025	5,038,986	72,123	35,391	97,672	5,244,174	3,938,960	9,183,135

Gift of land

SWT has received a gift of land during the year valued at £670k for 18.61 Hectares which is not classified as a heritage asset but included in land and buildings (2025: £NIL).

Heritage assets

Heritage assets consist of land designated as nature reserves by SWT and acquired either by purchase, gift or lease.

SWT currently owns, leases or manages 34 nature reserves, all classified as heritage assets, which have been acquired since the early 1960s and cover a total 1,763 hectares of Sussex downland, woodland, wetland, heath, meadow, and farmland.

Many are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (21). Included are five sites designated as nature reserves that were given to SWT between 1964 and 1981 for which no cost or conventional valuation is currently available.

A nature reserve will be considered for acquisition if:

- its ownership will enhance the viability or conservation value of an existing SWT reserve or simplify its management
- the land is required: 1) to demonstrate best conservation practice, 2) for education, 3) for the local community or, 4) to achieve a joint conservation project with other agencies
- ownership of the land will help to achieve one or more targets as set out in the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisition Strategy

SWT maintains a register of title deeds for all nature reserves in its ownership and land management is carried out to pre-agreed management plans.

Disposal of any nature reserve will only be considered if the original objectives for ownership have been met or the site no longer meets the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisitions and Disposals Policy. The Trust has a policy of allowing open access to all its nature reserves unless this is impossible to achieve due to physical location or will compromise the Trust's conservation objectives.

Five year financial summary of heritage asset transactions

Purchases at cost or valuation	2026 £	2025 £	2024 £	2023 £	2022 £
Streels Lane	-	-	-	-	78,406
Willand Woods	-	-	-	-	413,026
Ebernoe Forest Copse	-	-	108,404	-	-
Total additions	-	-	108,404	-	491,432

There have been no disposals of heritage assets in any of the last five years and a small impairment of £132 which was made in 2022.

13 Fixed asset investments

Subsidiary company – Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd.	2026 £	2025 £
Cost		
At 31 March 2025 and at 31 March 2026	100	100
Net book value at 31 March 2025 and at 31 March 2026	100	100

SWT owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd, a company incorporated in the UK. The company has not traded since its incorporation.

14 Biological assets

	2026 £	2025 £
Fair value at 1 April 2025	288,950	306,470
Purchases	26,890	6,900
Sales	(66,899)	(17,475)
Gain/Loss	212,431	(6,945)
Fair value at 31 March 2026	461,372	288,950

15 Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors	76,468	94,956
Other debtors	893,943	983,512
Prepayments	40,177	62,853
	1,010,588	1,141,321

16 Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	153,193	155,844
Other taxes and social security costs	95,965	74,792
Other creditors and accruals	84,735	68,426
Deferred income	28,338	68,455
Life membership subscriptions	18,651	19,633
	380,882	387,149
Deferred income:		
Balance as at 1 April	68,455	27,903
Income recognised in the year	(68,455)	(27,903)
Income deferred in the year	28,338	68,455
Balance as at 31 March	28,338	68,455

Deferred income comprises memberships and charitable income received for use in future financial years.

17 Funds

	Balance 1 April 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	2,270,354	1,317,499	1,085,557	-	2,502,296
	4,594,592	1,317,499	1,085,557	-	4,826,534
Designated	1,323,568	1,368,025	549,908	641,968	2,783,653
Unrestricted	9,440,287	5,535,191	5,090,822	(641,968)	9,242,687
Total all funds	15,358,447	8,220,715	6,726,287	-	16,852,874

The above income figures does not include Other Gains/Losses for the year included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

	Balance 1 April 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of restricted projects funds movements					
Behaviour Change	4,572	907	5,479	-	-
Brickfield Southern Water	6,400	-	438	-	5,962
Chalk Downland Fund	1,131,574	-	-	-	1,131,574
Creating Space & RSWT 30 by 30	9,690	550	6,121	-	4,119
Culvert Project at Rye Harbour	10,234	-	-	-	10,234
CIL (SDNPA) Iping Common	2,741	-	2,741	-	-
The Deneway Nature Reserve	350	-	350	-	-
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust – Youth Action	-	30,000	30,000	-	-
Friends of Gillham Wood	1,034	-	-	-	1,034
Friends of Rye Harbour	3,599	49,429	52,753	-	275
Friends of South Downs	-	14,790	14,790	-	-
Gallus Trust	3,855	-	-	-	3,855
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	37,553	109,172	106,706	-	40,019
Judicial Review Appeal	-	20,584	-	-	20,584
Legacies	331,074	250,000	88,840	-	492,234
LEI National Grid (SDNPA) Butcherlands and Ebernoe	-	41,723	41,723	-	-
Leysdown Conservation Trust	27,781	40,000	55,923	-	11,858
Lottery 833 Club	5,630	-	-	-	5,630
National Lottery Heritage Fund:					
The Deneway's Wild Future	-	121,311	47,934	-	73,377
National Lottery Heritage Fund Rye Harbour	-	(16,710)	(16,710)	-	-
National Heritage Lottery Fund – Wild About Inclusion	-	121,498	-	-	121,498
National Highways Pevensey Project	-	35,642	35,642	-	-
Owls In Memoriam Donation	6,700	-	660	-	6,040
People and Wildlife	10,261	-	5,377	-	4,884
Rapid Response Fund	20,791	-	-	-	20,791
RSWT funding from City Fibre	-	20,000	10,000	-	10,000
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	133,131	-	86,410	-	46,721
Net Regeneration Scheme	2,460	550	2,163	-	847
Southerham Barn	1,628	-	1,628	-	-
Southern Water	14,413	-	-	-	14,413
Species Recovery Kent Wildlife Trust	47,779	(7,931)	39,848	-	-
Sussex Kelp Recovery Project	121,192	97,657	133,951	-	84,898
Sussex Nature Partnership	46,243	30,105	37,120	-	39,228
Sussex Ornithological Society	-	1,070	1,070	-	-
The Woodland Trust	-	4,804	4,804	-	-
Tenants Hill Land Management Appeal	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Ticehurst Community Project	6,794	6,250	6,531	-	6,513

17 Funds *continued*

Analysis of restricted projects funds movements	Balance 1 April 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2026 £
Unlocking a Wilder Sussex: Ecological Restorator	-	70,948	42,543	-	28,405
Wilder Horsham	27,941	146,079	151,074	-	22,946
Wilder Ouse	61,787	82,903	50,319	-	94,371
Winter Reserves Appeal	65,030	20	19,581	-	45,469
Wetlands Appeal	33,854	45	19,748	-	14,151
Woodland legacy	93,987	-	-	-	93,987
Woods Mill Nature Reserve	273	-	-	-	273
Wild Work Wild Learn Charitable Trust	-	45,103	-	-	45,103
	2,270,354	1,317,499	1,085,557	-	2,502,297

Restricted projects:

Behaviour Change Project Funded by Natural England: Looking at behaviour change in Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch.

Brickfield Southern Water: Compensation payment from Southern Water for sewage leaks at Brickfield Meadow.

CIL (SDNPA) Iping Common: Access improvements to Iping Common nature reserve.

Creating Space: Supporting work in Ancient Woodlands.

Culvert Project at Rye Harbour: Funding from Environment Agency for Culvert Work at Rye Harbour Reserve.

The Deneway Nature Reserve: Fund from the Co-op local community fund.

Ebernoe Appeal: For land purchase at Ebernoe and land management.

Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust: Youth Action For delivery of Wilder Schools and Youth Action.

Friends of South Downs-No fence cattle collars: Grant to purchase cattle collars to support conservation grazing.

Friends of Gillham Woods: For works at Gilham given by Local Community group who disbanded.

Friends of Rye Harbour: For salary support and Gooders Hide repair and education on Rye Nature Reserve.

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: Enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement.

Gallus Trust: For meadow and fen habitat conservation in West Sussex.

Judicial Review Appeal: To raise funds to contest the Marine Management Organisation's licence renewal of Brighton Marina's dredging disposal in the Beachy Head West Marine Conservation area.

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of trainees.

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects.

Lottery 833 Club: Donation for Rye Harbour Education.

National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative: Ebernoe and Butcherlands. Funding administered by South Downs NPA for a project that helps mitigate the visual impact of electricity infrastructure.

National Lottery Heritage Fund: The Deneway's Wild Future project.

National Highway's Network for Nature grant: Administered by RSWT, for the Pevensey Levels – Reeds, Fens, restoration and resilience project.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Lost Woods: The project aims to conserve, restore, and reconnect fragmented woodland landscapes in the Low Weald and Downs area of West Sussex.

Owls: An in memorial donation.

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex

Rapid Response Fund: Land acquisition/response to immediate need.

RSWT Funding from City Fibre: To support community-based conservation initiatives in three West Sussex coastal towns: Bognor Regis, Littlehampton, and Worthing.

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: The development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour.

NHLF Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant: Prior year adjustment for development of the operations of the Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour.

Sea Changers Net Regeneration: Sea-changers grant to support the Sussex Net Regeneration Scheme, to reuse and recycle end of life fishing gear.

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn.

Southern Water: Funds from fines received by Southern Water granted for specific aspects of SWT work.

Species Recovery: Funds from Kent Wildlife Trust covering species recovery work.

Summer/Winter/Downland appeal: Conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves.

Sussex Kelp Recovery Project: Funding by The Pebble Trust and the Clarity Fund to further the regeneration of Sussex kelp forests.

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): Grant for Rye Harbour Predation Surveillance project to support nesting birds.

Sussex Wetlands Wilder Ouse: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex.

Tennants Hill Land Management Appeal: Appeal as part of the Wilder Sussex Strategy for land purchase in Sussex.

Ticehurst Community Project: Funds for Providing Wildlife Advice to local communities.

Unlocking a Wilder Sussex ERF Ecological Restoration

Funding awarded: Support towards the Unlocking a Wilder Sussex: overcoming barriers to land acquisition and habitat restoration project.

Wild About Inclusion project: National Lottery Heritage Fund grant for a project to overcome people's barriers to accessing nature.

Wetlands Appeal 22: To support the work of the Trust's conservation work on wetland habitats.

Wilder Horsham District: Fund for delivering a Nature Recovery Network for Horsham District, with funding from Horsham District Council.

Wild Work Wild Learn Fund: To support a range of educational and access-focused projects.

Winter Woodland Appeal: For land purchase (Willand Wood) at Ebernoe in 2020 and land management works.

Winter Reserves Appeal: For land management work.

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for woodland purchase.

Woods Mill Nature Reserve: Conservation work funded by a private individual.

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the Trust's charitable objectives. The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

17 Funds *continued*

Analysis of designated funds movements

	Balance 1 April 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2026 £
Biological Recording Centre including Local Wildlife Initiative from restricted to Designated	363,568	316,170	337,752	83,257	341,986
Build a stronger, more inclusive and diverse organisation	60,000	-	19,919	19,919	60,000
Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex land and sea for nature by 2030	61,000	-	14,613	49,613	96,000
Become a net zero and climate resilient organisation	105,000	381,855	101,085	46,212	431,982
Connect people with nature and inspire 1 in 4 to take meaningful action for wildlife	31,000	-	21,751	154,436	163,685
Undergo a comprehensive digital transformation	80,000	-	52,545	32,545	60,000
Strengthen and develop our organisation to deliver the scale of ambition	12,000	-	-	(12,000)	-
Fund a better future: grow and diversify our supporter base and income streams	11,000	670,000	2,243	1,243	680,000
Land Purchase Fund	600,000	-	-	-	600,000
Legacy equalisation fund	-	-	-	350,000	350,000
	1,323,568	1,368,025	549,908	641,968	2,783,653

Designated funds:

Biological Recording Centre including transfer of Local Wildlife Initiative Funds: from own fund to align with BRC designated fund type due to the nature of their funding streams which are contractual arrangements.

Build a stronger, more inclusive and diverse organisation: including alternative recruitment initiatives and capacity building.

Restoring and protecting at least 30% of Sussex land and sea for nature by 2030: including building our capacity in our Nature Reserves and Nature Recovery teams.

Becoming a net zero and climate resilient organisation: by using technology and other initiatives to reduce our carbon emissions.

Connect people with nature and inspire 1 in 4 to take meaningful action for wildlife: by investing in our engagement capability.

Undergo a comprehensive digital transformation: by investing in cyber security, our internal infrastructure and a new website.

Strengthen and develop our organisation to deliver the scale of ambition: including reviewing our pay and reward benefits for staff.

Fund a better future: grow and diversify our supporter base and income streams.

Land Purchase Fund: fund to purchase appropriate land to complement our existing nature reserves portfolio.

Legacy equalisation: fund to manage the financial uncertainty associated with legacy (gift in wills) income.

18 Funds – Previous Year

	1 April 2024 £	Movement in Resources		Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2025 £
		Income £	Expenditure £		
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	2,375,462	1,733,284	1,482,697	(355,694)	2,270,354
	4,699,700	1,733,284	1,482,697	(355,694)	4,594,592
Designated	27,055	286,633	277,509	1,287,389	1,323,568
Unrestricted	10,073,736	5,214,033	4,915,788	(931,695)	9,440,287
Total all funds	14,800,491	7,233,950	6,675,994	-	15,358,446

18 Funds – Previous Year *continued*

Analysis of restricted projects funds movements – previous year	Balance 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2025 £
Behaviour Change	4,726	65	219	-	4,572
Brickfield Southern Water	6,400	-	-	-	6,400
Chalk Downland Fund	1,098,044	33,530	-	-	1,131,574
Community Ecologist Project	12,000	-	5,206	-	6,794
Creating Space & RSWT 30 by 30	9,120	-	-	(570)	9,690
Culvert Project at Rye Harbour	10,234	-	-	-	10,234
CIL (SDNPA) Iping Common	2,741	-	-	-	2,741
CIL (SDNPA) Levin Down	854	4,636	5,490	-	-
Woods Mill Nature Reserve	273	-	-	-	273
The Deneway Nature Reserve	2,272	-	1,922	-	350
Ebernoe Woods Appeal	1,250	-	-	1,250	-
Friends of Gillham Wood	1,034	-	-	-	1,034
Friends of Rye Harbour	-	73,990	70,391	-	3,599
Gallus Trust	3,855	-	-	-	3,855
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	41,813	100,261	104,520	-	37,553
LEI Butcherlands	-	25,100	25,100	-	-
Legacies	13,963	367,111	50,000	-	331,074
Lost Woods	-	17,129	17,129	-	-
Lottery 833 Club	-	5,630	-	-	5,630
National Highways Pevensey Restoration	30	511,568	511,598	-	-
National Trust Changing Chalk	-	23,022	23,022	-	-
Natural Capital Sussex Nature Partnership	41,873	26,650	22,280	-	46,243
Owls In Mem Donation	-	6,700	-	-	6,700
People and Wildlife	10,261	-	-	-	10,261
Rapid Response Fund	20,791	-	-	-	20,791
RSWT Appeal 30 by 30	570	-	-	570	-
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	10,588	-	10,588	-	-
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	152,367	-	19,236	-	133,131
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant	1,937	83,598	85,535	-	-
Sea Changes Net recycling	-	3,540	1,080	-	2,460
Sussex Ornithological Society Heathland Improvements	-	(1,322)	(1,322)	-	-
Southerham Barn	20,670	-	19,042	-	1,628
Southern Water	14,413	-	-	-	14,413
Summer Appeal 20.21	5,954	-	5,954	-	-
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	255,628	-	-	255,628	-
Sussex Kelp Recovery Project	107,758	127,396	113,962	-	121,192
Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative	98,816	-	-	98,816	-
Sussex Wetlands Wilder Ouse	63,252	66,547	68,012	-	61,787
Species Recovery	32,089	57,034	41,344	-	47,779
The Leysdown Conservation Trust	47,108	40,000	59,326	-	27,781
TWT Next Door Nature	-	5,895	5,895	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Wild Coast Sussex	9,963	17,478	27,441	-	-
Wilder Horsham District	19,513	137,726	129,298	-	27,941
Winter Woodland Appeal	51,308	-	51,308	-	-
Winter Reserves Appeal	65,030	-	-	-	65,030
Wetlands Appeal 22	42,975	-	9,121	-	33,854
Woodland Legacy	93,987	-	-	-	93,987
	2,375,462	1,733,284	1,482,697	355,694	2,270,354

18 Funds – Previous Year *continued*

Restricted projects:

Behaviour Change Project Funded by Natural England: Looking at behaviour change in Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch.

Brickfield Southern Water: Compensation Payment from Southern Water for sewage leaks at Brickfield Meadow.

Chalk Downland Fund: To maintain, restore or purchase Sussex chalk downland.

CIL (SDNPA) Iping Common: Access improvements to Iping Common nature reserve.

CIL (SDNPA) Levin Down: Access Improvements to Levin Down nature reserve.

Community Ecologist Project: Funds for Providing Wildlife Advice to local communities.

Creating Space: Supporting Work in Ancient Woodlands.

Culvert Project at Rye Harbour: Funding from Environment Agency for Culvert Work at Rye Harbour Reserve.

Ebernoe Appeal: For Land Purchase at Ebernoe and land management.

Woodsmill Nature Reserve: Conservation work funded by a private individual.

The Deneway Community Nature Reserve: Fund from the Co-op Local Community fund to create a pond and provide equipment.

Friends of Gillham Wood: For works at Gillham Woods given by Local Community group who disbanded.

Friends of Rye Harbour: For Salary support and Gooders Hide repair and Education on Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: Enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement.

Gallus Trust: For meadow and fen habitat conservation in West Sussex.

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects.

Lottery 833 Club: Donation for Rye Harbour Education.

National Lottery Heritage Fund: Lost Woods of the Low Weald and Downs contract: Delivery of the Forest School and John Muir Awards project.

Natural Capital: The work of public engagement and reconnection to nature of the Sussex Nature Partnership.

Owls: an in memorial donation.

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex.

Rapid Response Fund: Land acquisition/response to immediate need.

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve: A depreciation fund.

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: The development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour.

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant: For development of the operations of the Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour.

RSWT Appeal 30 by 30: Development of the strategic aim to ensure 30% of land of the UK is managed for the good of wildlife by 2030.

Sea Change Net Recycling: Sea-changers grant to support the Sussex Net Regeneration Scheme, to reuse and recycle end of life fishing gear.

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn.

Southern Water: Funds from fines received by Southern Water granted for specific aspects of SWT work.

Species Recovery: Funds from Kent Wildlife Trust covering Sussex species recovery work.

Summer appeal: Conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves.

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: The provision of biodiversity information for Sussex transferred to Designated.

Sussex Kelp Recovery Project: The Pebble Trust to further the regeneration of Sussex kelp forests, plus other funding towards the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project.

Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative: Establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network across Sussex transferred to Designated.

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): Heathland Improvements.

Sussex Wetlands Wilder Ouse: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex.

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of trainees.

TWT National Lottery Heritage Fund 'Nextdoor Nature' project: part of a national Wildlife Trusts' initiative for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to provide people with advice and support to help nature on their doorstep.

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Wild Coast Sussex: A partnership to inspire and connect people to help protect the Sussex coast and sea.

Wetlands Appeal 22: To support the work of the Sussex Flow Initiative (now Wilder Ouse) and the Trust's conservation work on wetland habitats.

Wilder Horsham District: Fund for delivering a Nature Recovery Network for Horsham District, with funding from Horsham District Council.

Winter Woodland Appeal: For land purchase (Willand Wood) at Ebernoe in 2020 and land management works.

Winter Reserves Appeal: For land management work.

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for Woodland Purchase.

18 Funds – Previous Year *continued*

Analysis of designated funds movements

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the Trust's charitable objectives. The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

	Balance 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Strategy development	15,093	-	-	(15,093)	-
Ash Dieback crisis	11,962	-	-	(11,962)	-
Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre	-	272,332	247,650	255,628	280,311
Sussex Local Wildlife Sites	-	14,300	29,859	98,816	83,257
Build a stronger, more inclusive and diverse organisation	-	-	-	60,000	60,000
Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex land and sea for nature by 2030	-	-	-	61,000	61,000
Become a net zero and climate resilient organisation	-	-	-	105,000	105,000
Connect people with nature and inspire 1 in 4 to take meaningful action for wildlife	-	-	-	31,000	31,000
Undergo a comprehensive digital transformation	-	-	-	80,000	80,000
Strengthen and develop our organisation to deliver the scale of ambition	-	-	-	12,000	12,000
Fund a better future: grow and diversify our supporter base and income streams	-	-	-	11,000	11,000
Land Purchase Fund	-	-	-	600,000	600,000
	27,055	286,632	277,509	1,287,389	1,323,568

Designated funds:

Strategy development: *Investment in the development and implementation of next five year strategy.*

Ash Dieback crisis: *Provision of ongoing work managing the disease.*

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: *transferred from a restricted to designated fund type due to the nature of their funding streams which are contractual arrangements.*

Local Wildlife Initiative: *Funds transferred from restricted to designated fund type due to the nature of their funding streams which are contractual arrangements.*

Investment in building a stronger, more inclusive and diverse organisation: *including alternative recruitment initiatives and capacity building.*

Restoring and protecting at least 30% of Sussex land and sea for nature by 2030: *including building our capacity in our Nature Reserves and Nature Recovery teams.*

Become a net zero and climate resilient organisation: *by using technology and other initiatives to reduce our carbon emissions.*

Connect people with nature and inspire 1 in 4 to take meaningful action for wildlife: *by investing in our engagement capability.*

Undergo a comprehensive digital transformation: *by investing in cyber security, our internal infrastructure and a new website.*

Strengthen and develop our organisation to deliver the scale of ambition: *including reviewing our pay and reward benefits for staff.*

Fund a better future: *grow and diversify our supporter base and income streams.*

Land Purchase Fund: *to purchase appropriate land to complement our existing nature reserves portfolio.*

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible & Heritage Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Restricted				
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,502,296	2,502,296
Unrestricted	6,824,244	100	2,418,343	9,242,687
Designated	670,000	-	2,113,653	2,783,653
	9,818,482	100	7,034,292	16,852,874

Analysis of net assets between funds 2025

	Tangible & Heritage Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
Restricted				
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,270,354	2,270,354
Unrestricted	6,859,711	100	2,580,476	9,440,287
Designated	-	-	1,323,568	1,323,568
	9,183,949	100	6,174,398	15,358,446

20 Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities for the repayment of grants and gifts. (2025: £NIL).

SWT owns Castle Water, part of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. As previously reported SWT carried out an investigation to establish the nature and extent of the contamination based on existing data. This confirmed a source of contamination under part of the nature reserve. Since then discussions have been held with the relevant officers from the Environment Agency at a local level and the work done so far comprises a series of studies on the extent of contamination in other areas of Rye Harbour. Monitoring has continued throughout the 2025/26 financial year.

The costs of remediation at Castle Water remain unquantifiable. It is unclear to what extent, if at all, SWT will be liable.

21 (a) Operating lease commitments

SWT has commitments in the year to 31 March 2026 to pay minimum rentals on buildings and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases.

	2026 Buildings	2025 Buildings	2026 Equipment	2025 Equipment	2026 Land	2025 Land
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:						
Within one year:	54,591	-	7,945	4,358	3,834	-
Within two to five years:	218,364	-	14,455	11,424	14,374	-
Total operating lease commitments	272,955	-	22,400	15,782	18,208	-

(b) Capital commitments

No capital commitments (2025: nil)

22 Related party transactions

During the year to 31 March 2026 related party transactions were £1,080 (2025: £1,020).

**Translocation of
Wart-biter Bush-crickets**

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