

DERBYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2014

Registered Charity Number: 222212

Registered Number: 0715675

PARKINSON MATTHEWS LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
Cedar House
35 Ashbourne Road
Derby

DERBYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31 March 2014

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DERBYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

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COMPANY INFORMATION For the Year Ended 31 March 2014

Registered Charity Number 222212
Registered Number 0715675

COUNCIL OF MEMBERS - DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES

Chair	Dr A Hams
Vice – Chair	Mrs S Hawkins
Secretary	Mr S P Brent
Treasurer	Mr M J Cox FCA
Other trustees	Dr A Willmot Ms Mary Bayntun Mr T Hudson FCA Mr C Monk Mr C Gale Mr D Charlton Dr M Greenwood Mr P Shore Dr H A Edwards Mr C F Pickering Ms S L Fowler Mrs S L Lewis
Chief Executive	Dr J Smith
Registered office	East Mill Bridge Foot Belper Derbyshire DE56 1XH

COMPANY INFORMATION
For the Year Ended 31 March 2014

Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 7 Market Place Derby DE1 3ZF
Investment Managers	Investec Wealth & Investment Ltd 2 Gresham Street London EC2V 7QN
Solicitors	Nether Edge Law PO Box 3439 Sheffield S11 8NH
Auditors	Parkinson Matthews LLP Chartered Accountants Cedar House 35 Ashbourne Road Derby DE22 3FS

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the Year Ended 31 March 2014**

The directors present their report with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014.

Principal activities

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust works to conserve and enhance the natural heritage of Derbyshire.

Fixed assets

Details of movements in fixed assets are shown in note 11 to the accounts.

Directors

The directors who served during the year are stated on page 1.

Directors'/trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and 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 group and company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure of the charitable group for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make 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; and

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the Year Ended 31 March 2014

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trust is a charitable company, first registered as a charity in 1962 then becoming a company limited by guarantee in 1986. Its governing document is in two parts: the memorandum of association and the articles of association. The Memorandum of Association was revised in 2001 and revised Articles were adopted at the Annual General Meeting in October 2006. The Articles were revised at the Annual General Meeting on 31st October 2012 when changes were made to allow Honorary Officers to serve for up to nine years, and to revise the annual trustee retirement provisions.

As well as its registered office at East Mill, Belper, where most of the staff is based, the Trust operates an education centre - the Whistlestop Centre - at Matlock Bath. The Trust also manages 42 nature reserves (as at 31st March 2014) of which 23 are owned by the Trust. The remainder are leased or maintained under management agreements. The Trust has a wholly owned trading subsidiary company, Derbyshire Wildlife Resources, which is now dormant.

Policies and Procedures for Induction and Training of Trustees:

New trustees are recruited from members of the Trust who have been actively supporting the Trust in other roles or whose personal or professional interests and expertise will be beneficial to the governing body (the Trust's Board of Trustees). Nominations for trustees can be made by the Board itself or by at least five members, with elections taking place at the Annual General Meeting.

Trustees receive an information pack when first elected, which is updated as necessary, and at least one trustee development session is held each year. Trustees are also encouraged to attend relevant external training courses and there is budgetary provision to meet the costs of such courses.

Organisational Structure:

The Board of Trustees meets at least six times a year, to consider and approve:

- the annual report and annual accounts;
- organisational risks;
- the annual work programme and budget;
- strategic development.

Power to implement approved policies, strategies, annual work programmes and budgets is delegated to a Chief Executive Officer who is accountable to the trustees via the Chair of the Trust.

The Trust employed 41 staff at the end of March 2014, operating in five teams comprising administration, conservation, finance, marketing & fundraising, and reserves management. The Chief Executive and the Director of Living Landscape, together with the conservation, marketing, and reserves team managers form the Senior Management Team which meets monthly (or more frequently as needed) to discuss operational management matters.

Related Parties:

The Trust, along with 46 other Wildlife Trusts in the UK, is a member of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT). The independent trusts and RSWT work together as the Wildlife Trusts Partnership.

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Organisational Risks:

Action to improve controls on high level risks included the continuation of a governance review by a small group of Trustees coordinated by the Chief Executive. High level organisational risks are routinely discussed by the Board at their January meetings.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charitable objects of the Trust, as set out in the Memorandum of Association, are:

1. For the benefit of the public, to advance, promote and further the conservation maintenance and protection of:
 - i. wildlife and its habitats;
 - ii. places of natural beauty;
 - iii. places of zoological, botanical, geographical, archaeological or scientific interest;
 - iv. features of landscape with geological, physiographical, or amenity value
in particular, but not exclusively, in ways that further biodiversity.
2. To advance the education of the public in:
 - i. the principles and practice of sustainable development;
 - ii. the principles and practice of biodiversity conservation
3. To promote research in all branches of study which advance the Objects specified previously and to publish the useful results thereof.

The words public in our memorandum are not limited to members who choose to support, by donation or volunteering, the Trust activities and objects but extend to all the public wherever they live the ability to enjoy and be made aware of the diverse natural resources available in Derbyshire.

Our public are unlimited by age, ability, nationality and gender.

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust recognises the changes in society which have brought about increasing pressures on wildlife and the natural environment. In response to this knowledge have embarked on a bold new approach to nature conservation - a vision to recreate a network of ecologically functioning Living Landscapes across Derbyshire. These are landscapes that can adapt to climate change, provide resilience and connectivity for wildlife, access and enjoyment for people and a sustainable, low carbon contribution to the economy. The concept is a holistic approach, to reconnect our urban and rural areas, uplands and rivers and downstream, beyond the county boundary, to the sea.

Our vision is for Living Landscapes rich in wildlife, valued by everyone.

The Trust's aims for 2010 -2015, as set out in the mission statement of the Strategic Development Plan, are: 'to protect wildlife, restore biodiversity and to inspire people about nature in Derbyshire'.

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The beneficiaries of the Trust's activities are primarily the plants and animals of Derbyshire (the term animals including mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, etc.). We respond to their needs by managing our nature reserves according to best practice and the knowledge we have acquired about local habitats and species, advising other people and organisations on managing land for the benefit of wildlife, and by raising general awareness of the importance of wildlife. Human beneficiaries comprise the aforementioned people who receive our advice and information, the children to whom we provide environmental education, and the people of all ages who experience, enjoy and learn about wildlife through participating in events and activities.

Public Benefit

The advancement of environmental protection and improvement is recognised as a charitable purpose and is regarded universally as producing a public good. The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust exists to promote the care and protection of the environment and therefore provides a clear public benefit. The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's philosophy is based on the belief that the natural world deserves conserving for its own sake and, since this is widely perceived to be a worthy aim of public policy, it may fairly be regarded as a benefit to the public at large. However, the public benefits provided by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust go much further.

Firstly, our nature reserves are used by the public, and many have access on way-marked routes. At many sites information and interpretation is provided to visitors. There are a few cases where there may be a conflict between management requirements and unfettered access, but where this occurs we strive to keep any restrictions to a minimum.

Secondly, our education programmes are aimed at schools, colleges, adult groups and the wider public. Education is also, of course, recognised as a charitable activity in its own right.

Thirdly, our information gathering and provision of expert advice and opinion to local authorities and others helps to ensure that planning decisions are made on a rational basis taking full account of the public benefit of wildlife.

Fourthly, it is our belief that the involvement of many volunteers in our work provides an outlet for altruistic endeavour which is of special benefit to those involved as well as delivering benefits to the wider public.

Promoting the enjoyment of the natural world is an important part of what we do: contact with the natural world and the appreciation of wildlife and wild places provides great pleasure to many people and contributes towards wellbeing and health. Our nature reserves and activities are available to all and we make special provision for the disabled and disadvantaged wherever possible.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2013-14:

The Trustees' report for 2013-14 is structured around the Strategic Plan 2010-2015, adopted on 29th March 2010, and is the fourth review of the Trust's work to create a Living Landscape for Derbyshire. This Strategic Plan has six objectives, each delivering an outcome which will create a Living Landscape for Derbyshire. Three are Strategic Outcomes and three are Operational Outcomes.

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the Year Ended 31 March 2014**

Strategic Objective 1 Create Living Landscapes in Derbyshire

During 2013-14, a Living Landscapes Action Plan was developed. This set out what the Trust intends to do in more detail to achieve the Development Plan's vision of a Living Landscape for Derbyshire over the next 20 years. It puts the living landscape areas in order of priority, with the Derwent Valley being our current top priority.

Following an 18 month development phase, our Stage 2 bid for DerwentWISE was approved in September 2013. The Trust led the bid on behalf of 15 partner organisations and work will start in earnest in 2014. This 5 year project will inspire people to care for the beautiful landscape of the Lower Derwent Valley, across four themes: conserving and restoring heritage, increasing community participation, improving access and learning, and providing training and skills. The total project cost is £2,450,692, with HLF providing £1,767,800 and the remainder coming from other sources, such as partners, other grant funders, in-kind support and volunteers.

Also in the Derwent we continued to deliver the national river catchment pilot project for the Environment Agency on the Ecclesbourne. As a result this approach was widened to the whole Derwent Catchment where we were charged with hosting the development of a new and much bigger partnership.

In the Erewash Valley we have further developed our conservation farming operation at Woodside Nature Reserve and provided a new viewing tower, art installations and a "Wild Barn" with work facilities and an educational area. These projects were funded by WREN and Veolia.

Strategic Objective 2 Inspire the People of Derbyshire about their Wildlife

We continued to deliver three projects of great importance to this strategic objective: Limestone Journeys, Value in Trees and Peregrines, People and Places. We have successfully maintained the same number of school visits to the Whistlestop Countryside Centre at Matlock Bath and to the Wildlife Discovery Room at Carsington (69). However, the total number of children increased to 2990, which is over 900 more than last year. The three key projects supported a large increase in the number of outreach visits staff have been able to make to schools to inspire children about wildlife (a total of 114, up from 83 in 2012-13) and another large increase in the number of students engaged in outreach work to 2,481. Our Hardwick Group came 2nd in the Watch Group of the Year Competition this year, which was a wonderful achievement for these youngsters.

Strategic Objective 3 Stand up for Wildlife and Derbyshire's Natural Environment

We led two significant, high profile partnership projects to stand up for wildlife: Badger Vaccination, in response to the threat of a cull and the Sanctuary campaign which prevented the destruction of a Local Nature Reserve in Derby.

In 2013-14 we reviewed 817 planning applications and responded to over 760, objecting to 13, providing Councils with advice on protected species, wildlife habitats and designated sites and helping to ensure that legislation and guidance are fully complied with. Key sites other than the Sanctuary included Hartington Tip, Stanton Ironworks and the former Coalite site near Bolsover. We estimate that around 400 planning applications were refused or modified based, in part, on our advice.

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We responded to 293 requests from developers or their consultants for data, advice or information on species, habitats, Local Wildlife Sites, potential Local Wildlife Sites and other sites.

With local authorities we have continued to encourage the adoption of strong policies within their Local Plans that protect and benefit biodiversity and continued to promote the adoption of ecological networks.

Operational Objective 1 Base our Work on Knowledge and Understanding

In 2013-14 we surveyed 105 Local Wildlife Sites and 54 potential sites, advising landowners on a range of management issues including water vole, grassland management and control of invasive species. We designated 2 new LWS, extended the boundaries of 2 sites and reduced the boundary of 2 sites due to loss or damage. We also reduced the boundaries of 3 sites and removed 4 sites due to re-designation as part of the 118 ha SSSI covering Crich Chase.

429 LWS are considered to be receiving positive management which is 36.5% of the number of sites. In terms of area, over 50% of LWS are in positive management, although this includes several large reservoirs.

Operational Objective 2 Secure Recognition and Respect for Our Work

The people we reached at events continued to rise from 30,000 to 34,000. Key large events included the Beer Festival, Derby University Family Fun Day, Toyota EcoDay and the 24 hour Record Breaking Auction. Our eight Local Groups engaged with over 2,600 people and generated valuable funds towards general donations and Third Party donations for Landfill Communities Fund bids

All of our media communications increased quite substantially in 2013-14, partially due to the Badger vaccination project and The Sanctuary campaign. Radio coverage was over double that of the previous year with 52 separate interviews and television generated 6 interviews which was up on the 2 in the previous year. In the print media, we issued 182 press releases which generated some high quality features and coverage throughout the year worth £275,571 (£144,061 previously), with 358 local and 8 national mentions. Magazine features increased from 23 to 43 features in publications such as Derbyshire Life, The Derbyshire and Reflections. Web based features went up from 11 to 35 and the website had 52,638 (up from 34,173) unique visitors. Our Twitter followers increased from 5,000 to 6,900 and Facebook from 476 to 1,201. Our electronic newsletter is received by 3,815 (up from 3,500) people and remains an important extra means of communication.

Operational Objective 3 Grow our Resources and Increase Support for our Mission

Following two years of slight decline, membership of the Trust saw a rise from 7,316 to 7,560 memberships in 2013-14. This was largely thanks to our own in house membership recruiting operations, who are also becoming great ambassadors for the Trust out and about around the County. Income from these memberships will improve future membership income. Conversely the 7% drop in income reflects a drop in membership numbers in previous years. Watch membership remained static at 1,800.

