Annual Report and Financial Statement

2025–2026

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

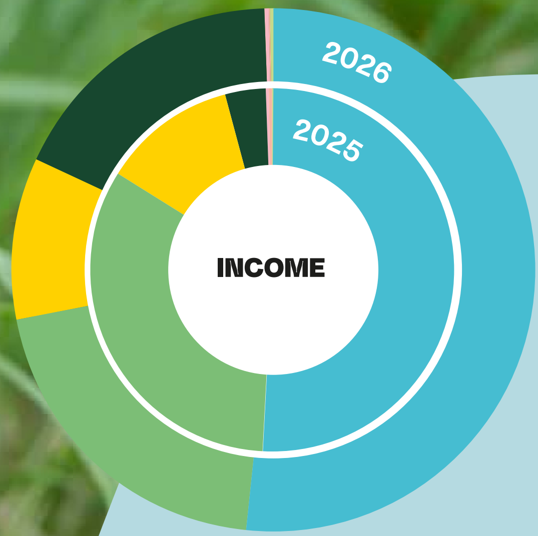
Charity No: 222212 Company No: 0715675

White Stork with chicks © Denitsa Kireva

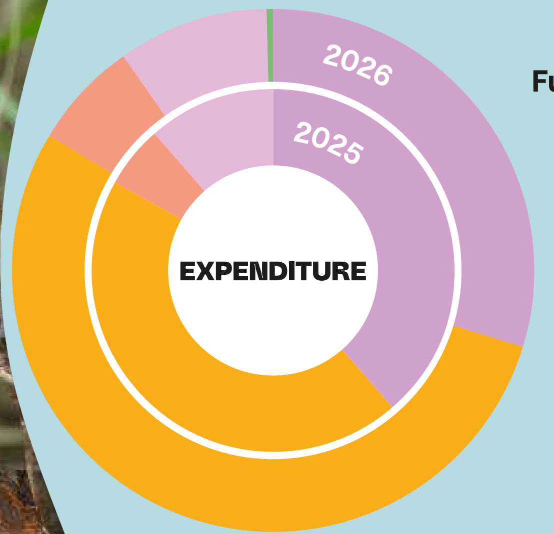
Raising support

Here's a quick summary of our income and expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2026

Pine Marten © Mark Hamblin/2020VISION



	2026	2025
Grants	£3,564,000	£2,791,000
Contracts	£1,410,000 (this includes BNG* income)	£1,809,000
Membership	£678,000	£647,000
Donations & Legacies	£1,219,000	£201,000
Fund Generating Activities	£18,000	£15,000
Investment Income	£2,000	£3,000
Other Income	£6,000	£2,000
	£6,897,000	**£5,468,000**



	2026	2025
Fundraising & Supporter Care	£1,590,000	£2,317,000
Wildlife Sites	£2,867,000	£2,654,000
Inspiring People	£345,000	£327,000
Fund Generating Activities	£505,000	£678,000
Other	£8,000	£0
	£5,315,000	**£5,976,000**

You can find more detail in our Financial Statements on pages 58–91.

*Biodiversity Net Gain

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Staff in the Peak District

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in brief

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is a charity that is wilder by nature! We have a clear vision for a Wilder Derbyshire, where people and wildlife thrive side by side.

We're working to deliver bold and imaginative, landscape-scale change with more wild spaces and richer habitats for nature. But we know we can't do it alone. We strongly believe everyone has a part to play in Nature's Recovery.

Our work is focused across four priority landscape recovery areas: Wild Peak, a wild and inclusive National Park; Wilder Derby, our ambition to create the UK's Greenest City; Derwent Living Forest, linking the National and Northern Forests; and Wilder Trent, a nationally significant wetland landscape from source to sea.

By inspiring and enabling people to take transformative action, we're helping to bring nature back to the heart of our communities. Through rewilding initiatives, ambitious partnerships, and community-led efforts, we're creating endless ways for nature and people to thrive together.


Highland Cattle © Terry Whittaker 2020VISION

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2026

The trustees present their Annual Report together with the audited financial statements of the Trust for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law. The trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (published October 2019). Since the group and the Trust qualify as small under section 383 of the Companies Act 2006, the group strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Patricia Rice

Welcome
from the Chair of Trustees

It is a privilege to introduce this year's Annual Report and to reflect on another important year for Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

As Chair, I continue to be inspired by the commitment, passion and determination of everyone who is part of our Trust. Whether you are a member, volunteer, supporter, partner or member of staff, you are helping to create a wilder future for Derbyshire, and I am immensely grateful for all that you do.

This year has been one of strong progress towards our Wilder 2030 vision. We know that nature is facing unprecedented challenges, and the scale of those challenges demands that we think boldly and act with confidence. I am proud that Derbyshire Wildlife Trust continues to grow in both ambition and impact, bringing people together to make a lasting difference for wildlife and for future generations.

One of the highlights of the year has been our Appeal to purchase Middleton Moor. Made possible through the generosity of our supporters, this landmark achievement represents a long-term investment in nature's recovery and a significant step towards reconnecting landscapes and creating more space for wildlife to flourish.

It is also inspiring to see the return of white storks to Willington Wetlands. Restoring a species lost from our landscapes is a powerful reminder that with commitment and collaboration we can begin to restore thriving ecosystems. It gives us hope for what is possible when we work together with a shared purpose.

Early purple orchid © Kayleigh Wright

Across Derbyshire we are working alongside farmers, landowners, businesses, local authorities and community groups to restore habitats at a landscape scale, while also supporting people to take action where they live. Seeing communities create more space for nature in their own neighbourhoods reminds us that every action, however individual, contributes to something much bigger.

I am especially pleased that our commitment to fairness, inclusion and community-led conservation has been recognised through the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts' Dame Mary Smieton Award. This is an achievement that belongs to everyone involved with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and reflects our belief that nature's recovery must be shaped by and benefit all of our communities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who makes our work possible. To our members, supporters, volunteers and partners, thank you for your continued faith in our vision and your generosity. I would also like to thank our staff and leadership team, whose professionalism, creativity and unwavering commitment continue to turn ambition into action.

While this report celebrates what we have achieved together, it also reminds us how much more remains to be done. Nature is still in decline, and reversing that decline will require us to be bold, innovative and prepared to embrace new ways of working and financing nature's recovery. I believe Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is well placed to meet that challenge, but we can only succeed by continuing to work together.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are building a wilder Derbyshire, and I look forward with optimism to what we can achieve in the years ahead.

The path to

Wilder 2030

Our strategic plan

Our **vision** is simple:

A wilder Derbyshire,

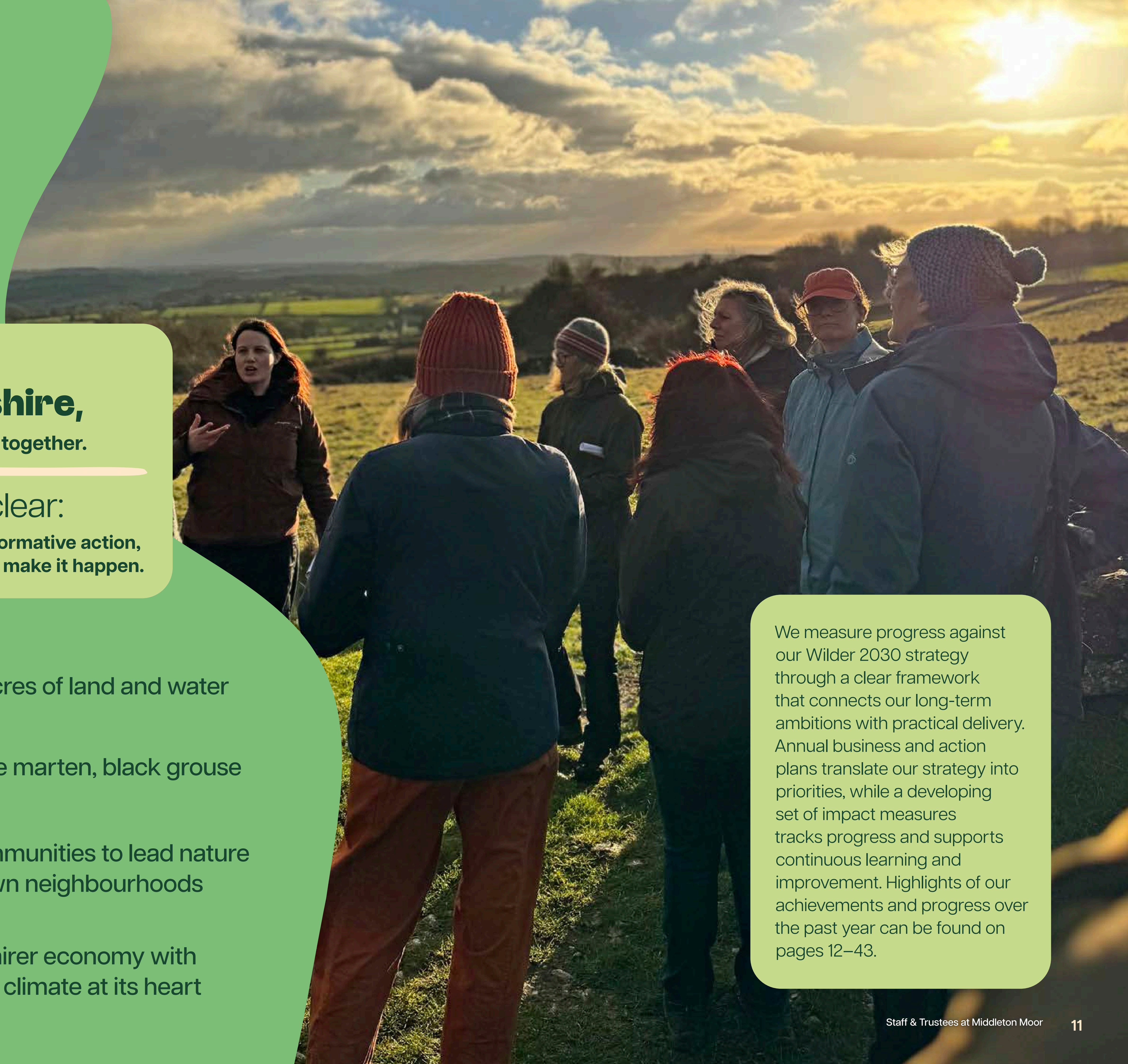
where people and wildlife thrive together.

And our **mission** is clear:

Inspiring and enabling bold, transformative action, where everyone plays their part to make it happen.

By 2030, we aim to:

- **rewild** 100,000 acres of land and water
- **reintroduce** pine marten, black grouse and white stork
- **support** 250 communities to lead nature recovery in their own neighbourhoods
- **grow** a greener, fairer economy with people, wildlife and climate at its heart



We measure progress against our Wilder 2030 strategy through a clear framework that connects our long-term ambitions with practical delivery. Annual business and action plans translate our strategy into priorities, while a developing set of impact measures tracks progress and supports continuous learning and improvement. Highlights of our achievements and progress over the past year can be found on pages 12–43.

Staff & Trustees at Middleton Moor

Highlights 2025-2026


Middleton Moor © Jo Smith

2030 Goal

Rewild 100,000 acres of land and water

Progress

42,408 acres for nature*

42% of our 2030 target achieved*

We're creating **bigger, better and more connected** spaces for wildlife across Derbyshire, securing land, restoring habitats and building nature recovery networks at a scale that matters.

8,150 acres secured for nature recovery this year

of which: **250 acres** influenced through biodiversity planning

and **1,000+ acres** connected through Biodiversity Net Gain

14% more funding secured than planned

*Cumulative data since 2020

2030 Goal

Reintroduce pine marten, black grouse and white stork

Progress

Wildlife comeback underway

8 species recovery and reintroduction projects advanced

Projects progressed for beaver, black grouse, hazel dormouse, water vole and white-clawed crayfish

Partnerships established for pine marten and white stork

Habitat restoration supporting species including dingy skipper and willow tit


Black grouse © Margaret Holland


Water vole Cromford Canal © Lorna Dickinson


Calke Abbey Crayfish Translocation © Dennis Richardson

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Our Highlights

Be a Jay, Allestree

Tree planting, Duckmanton

2030 Goal

Support 250 communities to lead nature recovery in their own neighbourhoods

Progress

Communities taking the lead

Across Derbyshire, people are **turning** their **passion for nature into action**. From urban rewilding projects to community-led conservation, local groups are creating lasting change where they live.

35 new urban rewilding initiatives

128 groups working together for nature

4 Wild Peak communities actively delivering rewilding

2030 Goal

Grow a greener, fairer economy with people, wildlife and climate at its heart

Progress

Foundations for **lasting change**

We're bringing together businesses, landowners, communities and decision-makers to create a future where nature, climate and people thrive together.

Nature finance pilot developed with Haddon Estate and partners

Businesses and landowners united through Business4Nature

National award won for fairness, inclusion and community-led action

Volunteer Rachel Horton

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People are closer to nature

This year, we brought nature closer to people across Derbyshire, opening up more opportunities to connect with wildlife and breaking down barriers to access, and supported communities to discover nature on their doorstep.

We brought people closer to nature:

We welcomed more than **400 new volunteers** with more inclusive and accessible volunteering opportunities, helping people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities get involved in nature's recovery. Nearly one in five active volunteers are aged 17–25, reflecting our success in engaging new audiences alongside our long-standing volunteer community.

We have developed Allestree Park as the UK's largest urban rewilding project, creating more space for wildlife and people to thrive together. The park is becoming richer in wildlife, more accessible and an even more inspiring place for people to connect with nature.

Minotour dung beetles confirmed at Allestree Park

197 people engaged in wellbeing walks at Allestree Park

Engaged and upskilled over **130 citizen science volunteers**

4,200 attendees at events including Be a Beaver and Be a Boar, which empower people to become ecosystem engineers

Minotaur Dung Beetle © Ian A Kirk

AGM Children at Be A Boar © Fluid

AGM event, children looking at drone © Fluid

Ragged Robin Derbyshire © Kieron Huston

Priorities for next year

Next year, we will build on this progress by:

- Taking what we've learned at Allestree Park to new places, using it to deepen understanding of how communities connect with nature across Derbyshire.
- Strengthening the Derby Nature Collective as a leading platform for urban rewilding.
- Continuing to remove barriers to volunteering, creating more flexible and inclusive opportunities for people to get involved in ways that work for them.

People take action for wildlife

Feeling connected to nature is where it begins. Wilder 2030 asks people to take the next step to become advocates, organisers, citizen scientists and community leaders driving nature's recovery. This year, that movement gathered real momentum.

Staff, parents and kids at Avenue Washlands

This year, we turned our strategic ambitions into action by:

- Launching Wilder Chesterfield, a two-year Heritage Fund-supported programme empowering local communities to drive species recovery for swifts, hedgehogs, bats and pollinators, street by street.
- Building strategic partnerships with businesses that share our ambition for nature recovery, creating new opportunities and stronger support for a Wilder Derbyshire.
- Strengthening Derbyshire Biological Records Centre as the county's biodiversity evidence hub, growing its database to 3.3 million species records and ensuring decisions for nature are guided by robust evidence.
- Expanding our reach and influence through the launch of Wilder 2030, engaging more people than ever through inspiring stories and campaigns, with our audience **growing to over 57,000 social media followers and over 43,000 email subscribers**.

Swift © Nick Upton

Highlights

Through stronger storytelling, targeted campaigns and meaningful supporter relationships, we are inspiring more people to play their part in creating a Wilder Derbyshire:

- **£287,185 raised** through two targeted appeals, inspiring 2,790 generous donations and helping turn our Wilder 2030 vision into action for nature across Derbyshire.
- More than **£700,000 secured** through legacy giving, with 54 confirmed pledges from supporters, whose generosity will help create a wilder future for generations to come.
- **10,000+ trees planted** and 26 community projects supported through the Wild Peak programme and the Species Survival Fund.

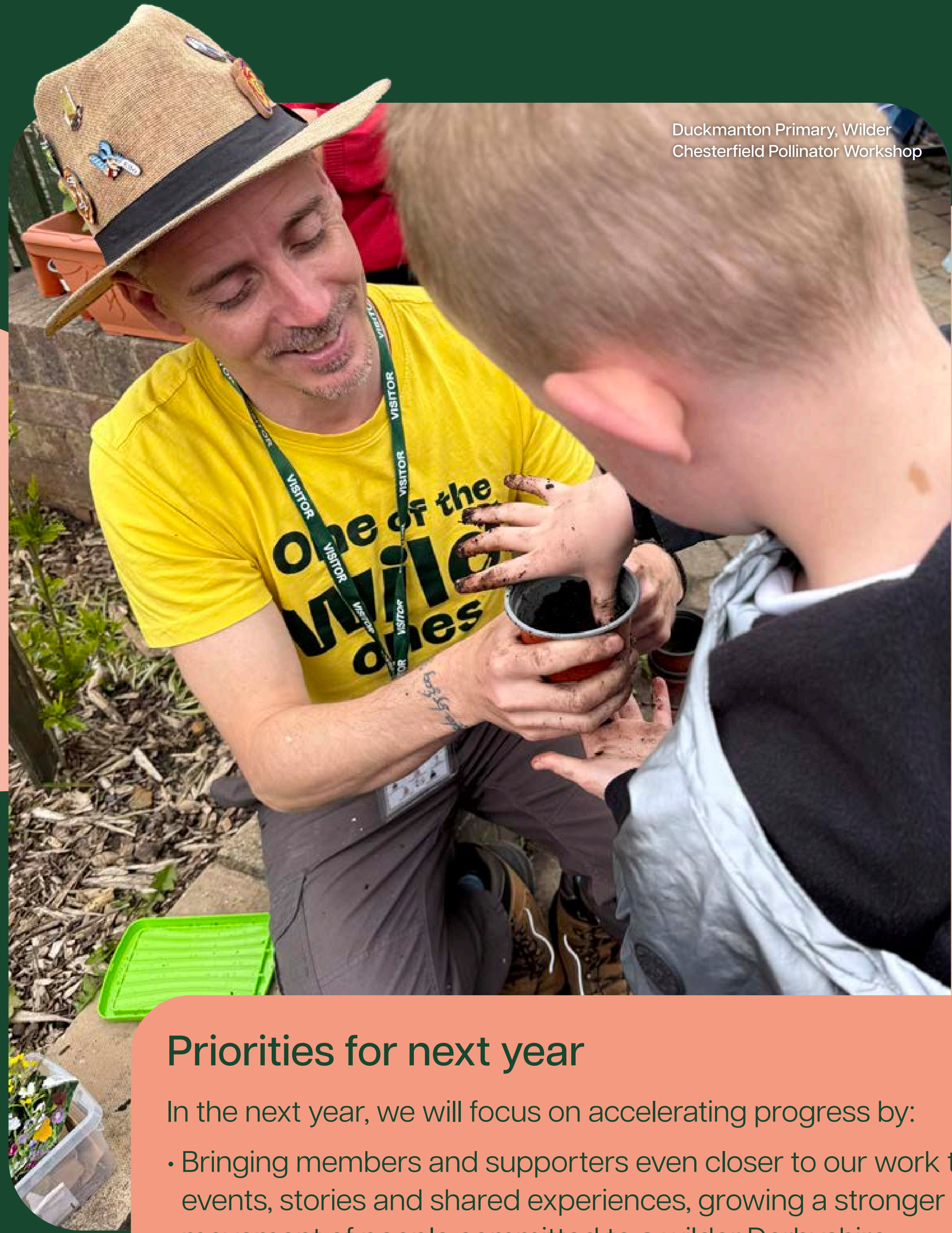
Species Survival Fund Communities

SPECIES SURVIVAL FUND

Funded by UK Government

Heritage Fund

The fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.



Duckmanton Primary, Wilder Chesterfield Pollinator Workshop

Priorities for next year

In the next year, we will focus on accelerating progress by:

- Bringing members and supporters even closer to our work through events, stories and shared experiences, growing a stronger movement of people committed to a wilder Derbyshire.
- Creating more community-powered rewilding projects in our towns and cities, helping people shape greener, healthier places where they live.
- Growing the rewilding movement by expanding citizen science, strengthening community organising, and working with Derby libraries and residents to explore nature, place and environmental justice together.

More space for nature

and for people to benefit from it

This year marked a step change in our impact, creating more space for nature and more opportunities for people to benefit from a wilder Derbyshire.

We secured an additional **8,150 acres** for nature recovery, bringing the total area we have secured for nature in Derbyshire to **42,408 acres**. We also moved more land into active delivery across our priority landscapes, helping to create richer, healthier and more connected places where wildlife can recover and thrive.

- Our Wild Peak Network continues to grow, with more than 5,400 acres now managed for nature. This includes Eyam Moor, where landowners united by an ambition to restore nature at scale generously donated 600 acres, which the Trust will manage in perpetuity for nature.
- In the Derwent Living Forest, we brought together a network of farmers across more than 2,470 acres to shape a proposed scheme that supports biodiversity while helping farm businesses adapt to the end of the Basic Payment Scheme.
- At Middleton Moor, we purchased 135 acres, made possible by the extraordinary generosity of our supporters and a major funding grant from Biffa Award.

Our species recovery and reintroduction work is gathering momentum, and we are excited by the return of white storks to Derbyshire after more than 600 years. These iconic birds will soon be back in the Trent landscape, where they can help signal the health of our wetlands and inspire more people to connect with nature.

Our planning work continues to secure better outcomes for nature from development, helping protect and enhance more than 100 hectares of land beyond the areas we directly manage.

Highlights

- Secured **8,150** acres for nature recovery and moved more land into delivery across our priority landscapes.
- Advanced eight species reintroduction/recovery projects – beaver, water vole, white-clawed crayfish, stork, black grouse, hazel dormouse, pine marten and dung beetles – helping secure wildlife comeback success and strengthen habitats across Derbyshire.
- Influenced more than 250 acres through biodiversity planning, helping improve nature outcomes beyond the land we directly manage.
- Scaled delivery, with annual grants **income at 14% above our planned target**, helping support larger and more ambitious work on the ground.

White Stork with chicks © Denitsa Kireva

Old Whittington © Kayleigh Wright

Our Biodiversity Net Gain programme is now in its second year and is already helping shape a bigger, wilder future for Derbyshire. With two habitat banks secured and two more sites set to transfer to the Trust later this year, we are building connected nature recovery networks across more than 1,000 acres. These landscapes will restore natural processes at scale, create space for species to return, store carbon, reduce flood risk and open up more high-quality natural spaces for people to enjoy. By working with natural regeneration and other nature-based solutions, we are creating resilient habitats in the right places while keeping the carbon impact of habitat creation and management as low as possible.

1,000 acres


Common Farm © Kerry Price

Priorities for next year

Next year, we will build on this progress by:

- Continuing progress towards our 100,000 acre goal by creating an additional 8,650 acres of connected space for wildlife across our four priority landscapes: Wild Peak, Wilder Derby, Derwent Living Forest and Wilder Trent.
- Moving at least one flagship species reintroduction from planning into delivery, while laying the groundwork for future reintroductions through habitat preparation, partnerships and stakeholder engagement.
- Developing Common Farm as a visible hub for community rewilding, learning and species recovery.
- Supporting more communities to lead nature recovery locally, building on existing groups and helping new groups take action.
- Strengthening our planning influence so development decisions lead to better outcomes for nature and clearer insight into future pressures.
- Registering our new sites at Eyam as a habitat bank and starting essential baseline surveys.

A nature-first economy

To restore resilient, functioning ecosystems across Derbyshire and beyond, we need more than goodwill and dedication. We need long-term investment that works for nature, climate and people.

Our mission is to unlock and embed economic solutions across Derbyshire that are nature-positive, net zero and socially just.

What we've achieved this year:

- We laid the foundations for a nature-first economy in Derbyshire through pioneering work with Haddon Estate and partners including Pegasys Global Consulting, showing how investment in nature can deliver long-term benefits for wildlife, climate and communities.
- We brought together businesses, landowners and decision-makers through Business4Nature, working with the University of Derby and East Midlands Chamber to build the partnerships needed to turn early pilots into lasting change.
- We strengthened the case for large-scale investment in nature recovery by contributing to the draft Rivers 2040 economic report, helping show how restoring landscapes and rivers across the Trent catchment can support a more resilient future for Derbyshire.

DWT Staff at Eyam © Fluid

Highlight

We are helping show how Derbyshire can lead the way in building a nature-first economy, bringing together landowners, businesses and partners to unlock investment in a wilder, more resilient future.

Priorities for next year

Pioneering a new model for nature finance, we are working with Triodos to secure what would be the first investment bond of its kind for a Wildlife Trust (subject to board approval). This will provide the capital needed to secure two additional habitat banks in Derby City and the Trent Valley.

Developing green skills

We expanded our green skills programmes this year, giving more young people and communities practical routes into nature, learning and leadership. We rolled out the Environment Leaders Programme, grew Forestry in the Community, and strengthened Junior Rangers, youth groups and community training.

As a result, more people are gaining accredited skills, building confidence and taking action for nature, from young people progressing into nature-based green careers, to volunteers and local partners leading activity in their own communities. We also launched the Wild School Network, helping more schools make space for wildlife and outdoor learning.

Creating early talent opportunities is a key part of our commitment to green jobs. This year, we delivered six paid traineeships across the organisation, with roles spanning marketing, communities and practical delivery.


Trainees © Flavia

"The traineeship with DWT has given me the opportunity for a career change into conservation. Being paid a living wage has made that transition possible for me."

Trainee


Forest School Training

162 young people engaged in green skills and nature action

114 qualifications and awards achieved or in progress

57 people trained or supported to lead community action

60+ schools connected through the **Wild School Network**

82% progression into employment, education or sustained volunteering

DWT Staff at Eyam © Fluid

Highlights

- We helped open the door to green careers, with **82% of participants progressing into employment**, education or sustained volunteering.
- We engaged over **200 people in green skills**, helping more young people and communities build the confidence, skills and experience to take action for nature.

Priorities for next year

Next year, we will build on this progress by:

- Scaling our approach to attracting, developing and retaining diverse talent, with a stronger focus on increasing participation from underrepresented groups.
- Building more innovative partnerships to strengthen nature-based green skills development.
- Launching a community-led rewilding learning hub.

Building equity

Building equity into everything we do is essential if people and wildlife are to thrive together. Nature recovery will only succeed if it is fair, inclusive and shaped by the people it is meant to benefit.

We know that many people face systemic barriers to connecting with and accessing nature, from unequal access to green space and transport, to exclusion, discrimination and a lack of representation in decision-making. By listening to lived experience and embedding justice-led, community-centred approaches across our work, we can strive to ensure that nature is not only cared for, but shared more fairly.

Key outcomes this year

- Building equity into everything we do remains central to our Wilder 2030 vision. Through four targeted programmes, we are tackling barriers to participation, improving accessibility and helping address deep-rooted inequalities so that more people can experience and benefit from nature.
- Advocating for marginalised communities through the establishment of a Nature Justice Network, strengthening system-level influence.

Peak Village accessible path work

Improving accessibility has remained a key focus this year. A notable enhancement was the installation of a pushchair- and wheelchair-friendly circular route at our Peak Village reserve. The new level pathway enables visitors to travel from the car park through the wildflower meadow and along the banks of the River Derwent, providing a more inclusive and enjoyable experience for people of all ages and abilities.

- Beginning to unpack how we embed justice-driven, community-centred decision-making, integrating community voice into programme design and delivery.
- We are continuing to invest in a culture where everyone feels they belong, while recognising there is still more to do to improve ethnic diversity and strengthen belonging across the Trust. This year, 88% of staff said the Trust is an inclusive place to work.

DWT Staff Day Peak District © Alex Rogers

As inclusive as any organisation in this sector is, there are wider issues with inclusivity in conservation in general that still need to be addressed.

Highlights

- Won the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts' Dame Mary Smieton Award which recognises outstanding commitment to fairness, inclusion, and community-led approaches.
- Formed the Nature Justice Network, strengthening advocacy and collaboration to address inequality in the sector.
- Increased focus on community-centred design, embedding the voices of marginalised groups in programmes.
- Launched the Lead Wilder programme to create more inclusive pathways into governance, supporting individuals from underrepresented communities to become the next generation of charity Trustees and decision-makers.

Dame Mary Smieton Award

Priorities for next year

Next year, we will build on this progress by:

- Strengthening how we build equity into everything we do by defining and evidencing measurable reductions in key structural barriers.
- Embedding justice-driven, community-centred decision-making more consistently, including stronger community voice and governance.
- Continuing to challenge deep-rooted inequalities in the sector, with clearer accountability, measurement, and impact at site - and programme-level.

Staff Day December 2025

Improving our resilience and impact

To achieve our vision, our staff and volunteers need the support, confidence and systems to thrive. Despite a year of external uncertainty and internal change, we have continued to strengthen our culture, leadership, financial planning and organisational systems so we can deliver more for nature and for people.

80 **Employees**

9892 **Members**

12 **Trustees**

686 **Volunteers**

Key outcomes this year

- Increased our income to **£6.9million** and finished the year with an unrestricted surplus of **£610,000** to invest into a Wilder Derbyshire.
- Maintained levels of staff engagement, **with staff satisfaction at 81%**, and supported career development with an internal movement at 38%.
- Launched our internal carbon reduction group to actively address carbon emissions and organisational engagement.
- Invested in new roles and infrastructure to future-proof the organisation and support delivery of Wilder 2030.

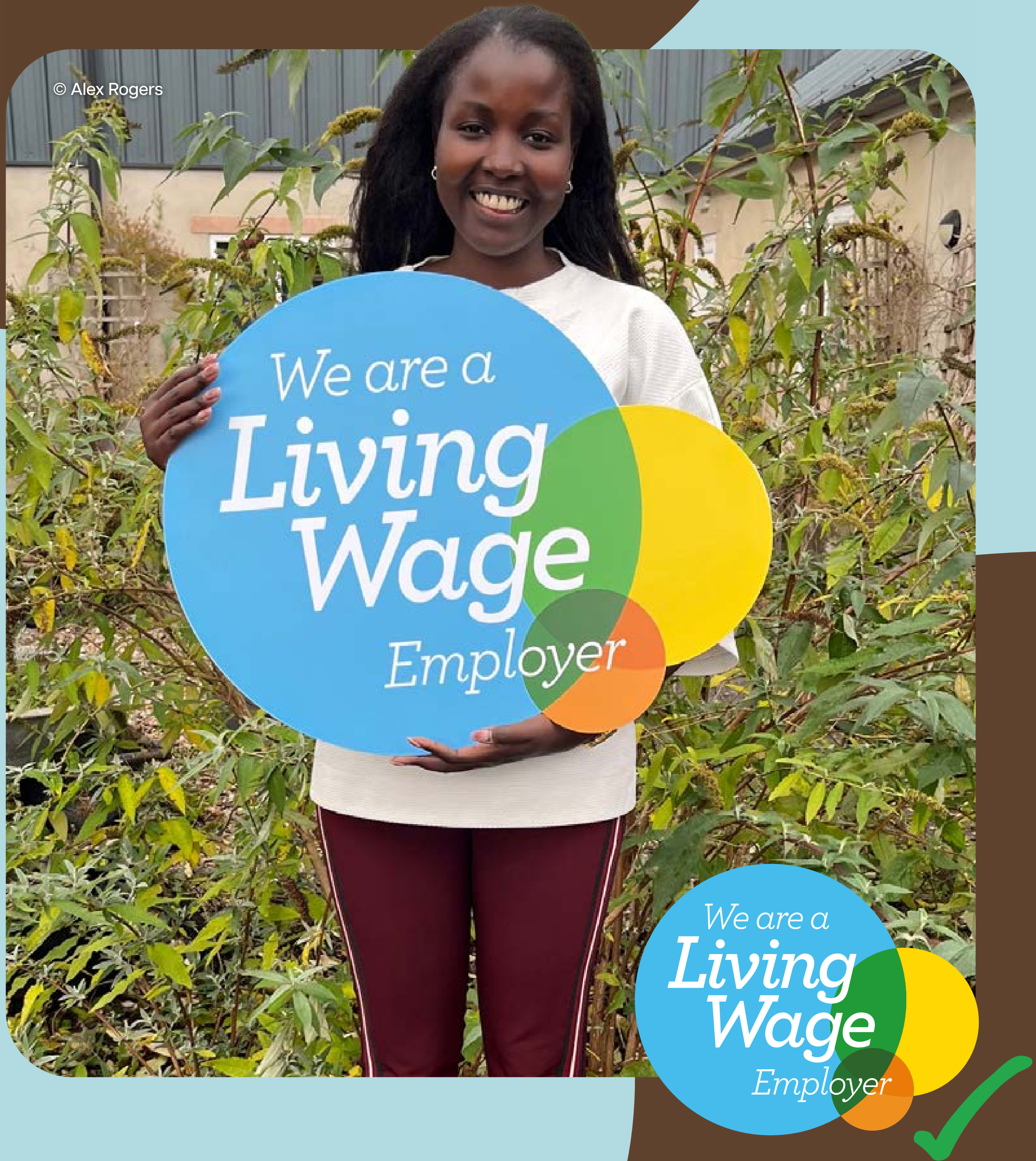
81%

Volunteer group

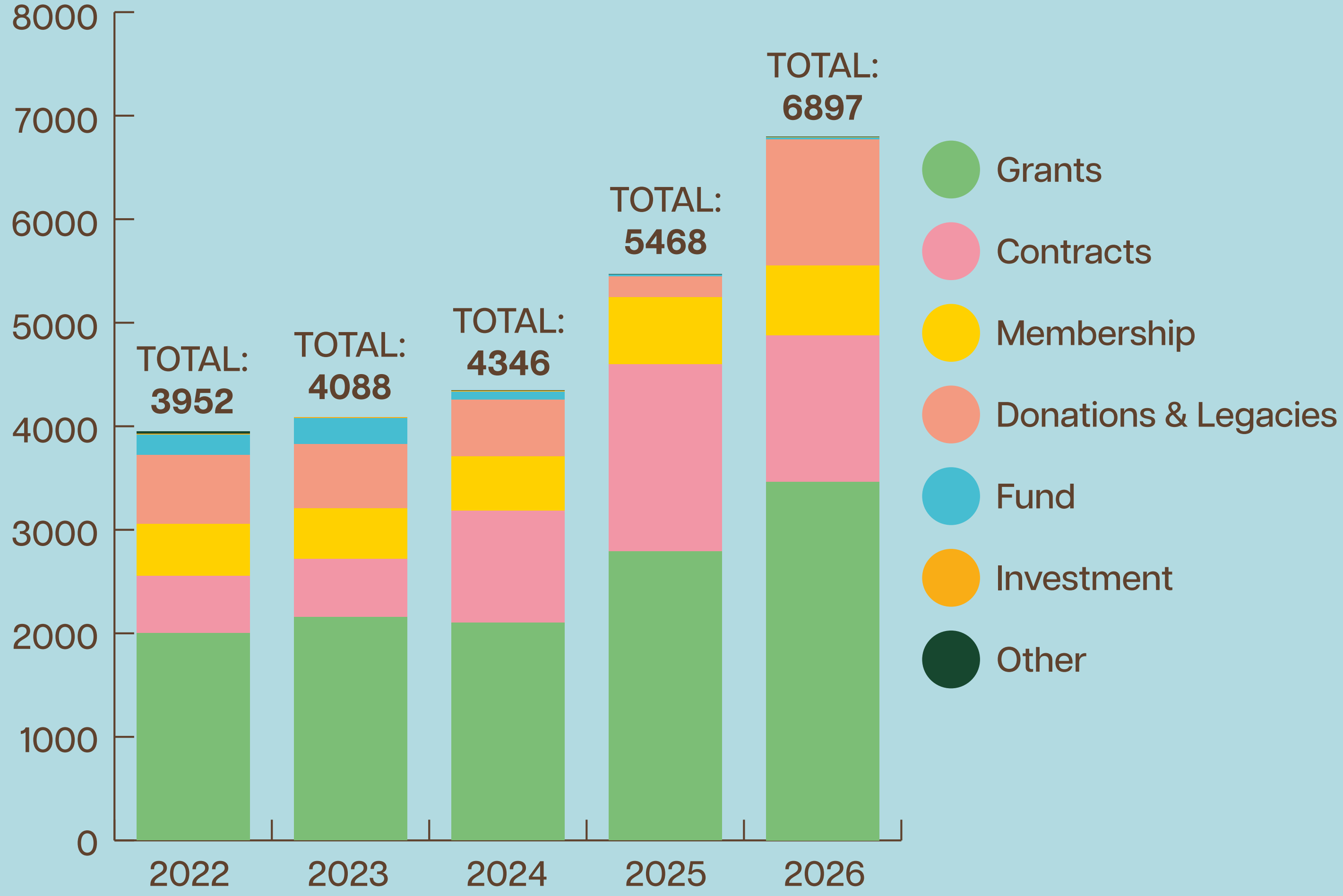
DWT Volunteer Gustav Clark

Highlights

- Continued to advocate for a real living wage and shortlisted in the 2025 Living Wage Awards. We are one of only a handful of triple accredited living wage employers, which demonstrates our commitment to fair pay.
- Increased our income to invest more into a Wilder Derbyshire.



Income



Priorities for next year

Next year our focus is on increasing organisational pace, confidence and resilience so the Trust can scale delivery of Wilder 2030 without increasing risk.

- Strengthening how we plan ahead and make decisions.
- Investing in better digital and financial systems.
- Creating an even stronger, more inclusive culture and leadership.
- Making sure our people and skills can support future growth.
- Putting equity, shared power and climate responsibility at the heart of decisions.
- Cutting our carbon footprint.

Our journey to net zero

Climate change is one of the greatest threats facing nature and society, both in the UK and around the world.

As part of the wider federation of Wildlife Trusts, we are working towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and putting in place robust measures to help nature and communities adapt to a changing climate.

We want to show what is possible and inspire, empower and enable more people to take action for nature and climate.

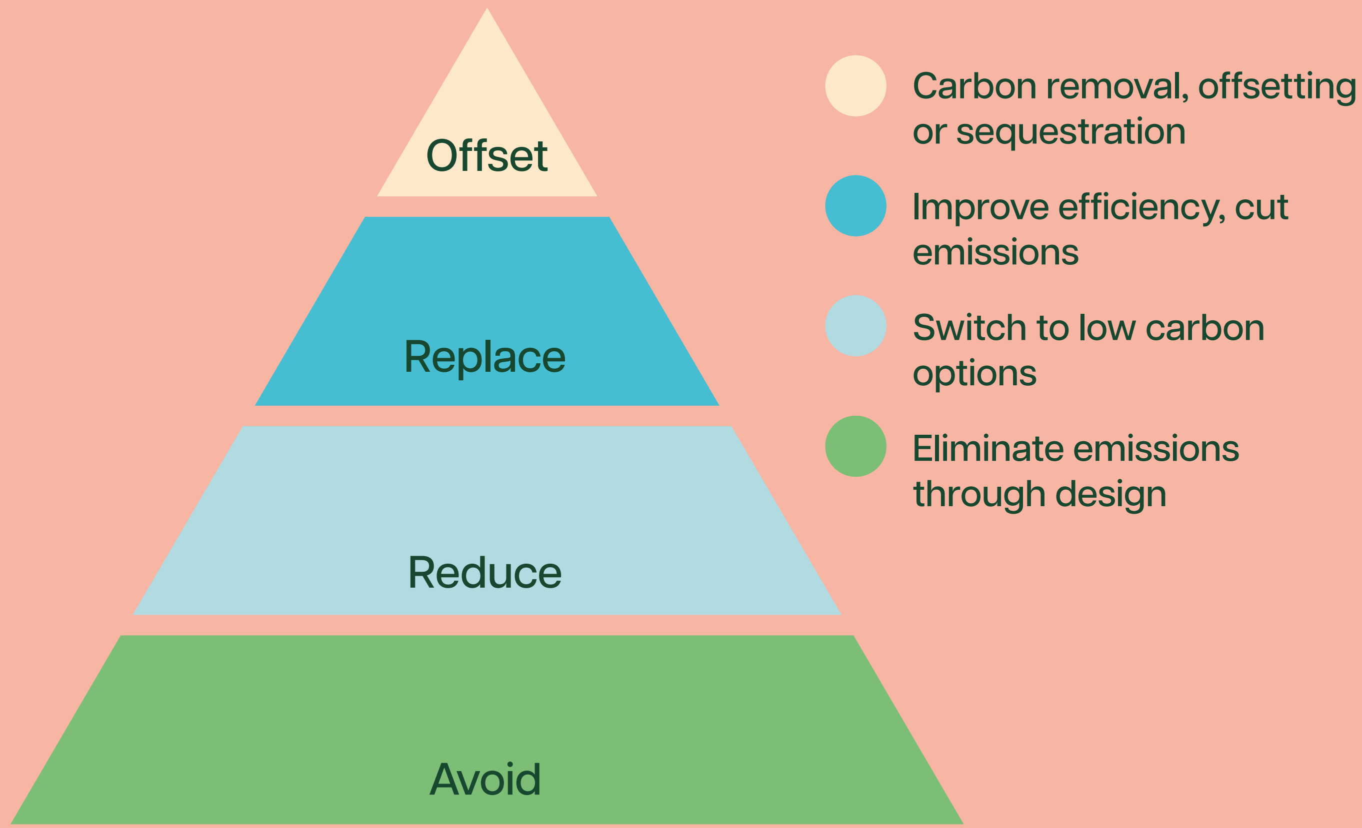
Since our carbon baseline was set, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has grown significantly in both size and impact. Our staff team has increased from around 40, and the land we manage has grown from 874 hectares to more than 1,233 hectares. While we have made real progress in changing how we operate and reducing emissions in key areas, our overall emissions have also risen as the organisation has expanded.

We have made substantial progress by changing the way we graze, converting our fleet, improving day-to-day operations and building a better understanding of the carbon stored in the land we care for. These steps are already making a difference and show our commitment to cutting emissions as we continue our journey towards net zero.

In 2024/25, our operational carbon footprint was 463 tCO_2e and our livestock footprint was 209 tCO_2. We are currently finalising our 2025/26 carbon data and will publish the full results on our website once available.

DWT Staff Day Cycling © Alex Rogers

How we will reduce emissions:



Priorities for next year

We are excited to launch our updated carbon reduction strategy and action plan, setting out how we will cut emissions and deliver on our climate commitments.

Financial Review

Reserves policy and going concern

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the continuity of the charity should income levels decrease substantially. This policy is set such that a sum equivalent to three months core expenditure is the minimum amount to be held for this purpose. Core expenditure includes that necessary for the charity to meet its contractual obligations to suppliers, service providers and staff in the foreseeable future, to either enable a revision of its core expenditures or improve its incoming resources. The total consolidated funds of £4,269,000 (2025: £2,579,000) include restricted funds of £2,857,000 (2025: £1,849,000), leaving unrestricted general funds of £1,412,000 (2025: £730,000).

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash funds are held on a prudent basis in several bank and deposit accounts.

Investment powers and policy

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to make any investment which the Board sees fit provided that the Board shall seek proper professional advice.

Funding sources

A significant strength of the Trust is its wide range of funding sources. Were a small number of such funding sources to cease it would not pose a significant risk for the organisation.

Financial resources

During the financial year 2026, the Trust generated a surplus of £1,690,000 (2025 deficit: £455,000). Income of £6,897,000 was generated (2025: £5,468,000). Actual expenditure for 2026 was £5,315,000 excluding gains on investment and actuarial gains on pension schemes (2025: £5,976,000). Fundraising initiatives resulted in income for projects which extend over several years helping maintain the level of general reserves.

How expenditure has supported key objectives

Expenditure was allocated to activity categories according to the table in note 11 of the financial statements. The figures demonstrate that 70% of the Trust expenditure went on its charitable activities. Of this, 9% was allocated to its work to inspire people with wildlife, 14 % for managing nature reserves and 77% to safeguarding wildlife sites. The expertise and experience of staff are major assets of the Trust, and their significance is indicated by the fact that staff costs (salaries, national insurance contributions and pension contributions) amounted to 59% of total expenditure.

Pensions deficit

Under the requirements of FRS 102, the Trust includes the assets and liabilities of these arrangements in its balance sheet. Current service costs, curtailment and settlement gains and losses, and net financial returns are included in the statement of financial activities in the period which they relate. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised in the statement of financial activities. For more information, details are set out in Note 29 of the accounts.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks arise from the impact of public sector funding cuts, climate change and globalisation, and the increasing pressures and competing demands for land use for housing, transportation and economic regeneration purposes.

Purpose and Charitable Objectives

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

- wildlife and its habitats
- places of natural beauty
- places of zoological, botanical, geographical, archaeological or scientific interest
- 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

- the principles and practice of sustainable development
- 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 Trust activities and objects are unlimited by age, ability, nationality or gender.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust recognises the changes in society which have brought about increasing pressures on wildlife and the natural environment. In response we have embarked on a bold new approach to nature conservation, a vision to recreate a network of ecologically functioning Nature Recovery Networks across Derbyshire. We are working with local businesses, partners, landowners, communities and individuals on large-scale habitat restoration and enhancement to create a healthier environment for wildlife and people.

Public Benefit

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust exists to promote the protection of the environment and therefore provides a clear public benefit. 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 widely used by the public. At all our sites, information and interpretation is provided to visitors. Secondly, our education programmes are aimed at schools, colleges, adult groups and the wider public. Thirdly, our information gathering and the provision of expert advice to local authorities and others helps inform planning and other decisions for the benefit of wildlife. Fourthly, the involvement of hundreds of volunteers in our work provides an outlet for altruistic endeavour which is of special benefit to those involved as well as those who directly benefit.

Eyam © Fluid

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 (charity registration number 222212 and company registration number 0715675). 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 on 5 October 2024. As well as its registered office at Middleton, where most of the employees are based, the Trust operates an education centre, the Whistlestop Centre, at Matlock Bath. The Trust also manages 60 nature reserves (as at March 26) of which 27 are owned or part 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 dormant.

Appointment of Trustees

New trustees are recruited following an open recruitment process. Nominations for trustees can be made by active members of the Trust or other individuals with relevant personal or professional expertise which is beneficial to the Trust. Nominations for trustees can be made by the Board or by at least five members, with elections taking place at the Annual General Meeting.

Policies and Procedures for Induction and Training of Trustees

Trustees receive a full induction when first appointed and are provided with relevant training opportunities throughout the year. Trustees are also encouraged to attend relevant external training courses.

Arrangements for Setting the Pay and Remuneration for the Key Management Personnel

The Trust considers that the trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity for the direction and control of the Trust on a day-to-day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually.

How Does the Charity Make Decisions?

The Board of Trustees meets at least four 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 strategies, policies, annual work programmes, and budgets is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, who is accountable to the trustees. The Trust employed 80 staff at the end of March 2026, operating in five directorates, comprising Development, Finance, Natural Solutions, People & Culture and Wilder Communities. The Chief Executive and the Directors of the five directorates, form the senior management team, which meets twice monthly (or more frequently as needed) to discuss operational management matters.

Relationships with the Charity and Related Parties

The Trust, along with forty-six 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. During the year, the Trust had one wholly owned subsidiary company, Derbyshire Wildlife Resources Limited, which was dormant. (2024: dormant).

Risk Management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which aims to improve control of high-level risks. Such risks are reviewed by a small group of trustees coordinated by the Chief Executive. High-level organisational risks are routinely discussed by the Board.


DWT Staff at Eyam © Fluid

Fundraising Standards

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust manages relationships with around 17,000 members. When members are asked for financial contributions, it is done in a responsible, respectful and ethical manner. The same applies to all our supporters, including those giving one-off donations or legacies to the Trust. We are always seeking to improve the ways in which we relate to our supporters by developing and sharing best practice. To demonstrate our commitment to ethical fundraising practices, we are members of the Fundraising Regulator and the Institute of Fundraising and adhere to their recognised standards.

We do not believe in approaching vulnerable people for financial support, aiming to avoid the distress such practices can cause.

We always seek to exceed the expectations of our members and supporters in everything we do. However, we know that there may be times when we do not meet our own high standards. When this happens, we want to hear about it, to deal with the situation as quickly as possible and put measures in place to stop it happening again. As such, we have a Complaints Policy in place to enable members and supporters to contact us and express their concerns. Further information on our Complaints Policy can be found on our website: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/policies.

We are also committed to disclosing the number of complaints received. No complaints relating to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust fundraising practices were received between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026.

We are proud of our corporate partnerships and seek to work with businesses with whom we share common causes. Any new collective corporate partnerships are subject to full scrutiny through well-established governance processes. Ongoing partnerships are governed by clear contractual obligations, relationship management and ongoing review and scrutiny by governance committees.

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Trust 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. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Trust and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 Group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the Trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the Trust 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 Group and the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditor is unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

The auditor, Sumer Auditco Limited, has indicated his willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditor at a meeting of the Trustees.

In approving the Trustees' report, we also approve the Directors' report included therein, in our capacity as company directors. This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:
Dr P Rice.

Patricia Rice ....
Signer ID: O4L2LRIDRF...

Date:
24/08/2026 GMT

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2026, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the consolidated balance sheet, the company balance sheet, the consolidated statement of cash flows 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 group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026, and of the group's 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 group and parent 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 group and parent 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' report, other than the financial statements and, our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. 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 directors' 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 directors' report included within the trustees' report 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 group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent 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; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent 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 group and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the Group and parent charitable company through discussions with Trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the group and parent entity, including safeguarding legislation, health and safety requirements including fire safety and data protection laws;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- we ensured identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non- compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent entity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias: and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non- compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation:
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

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: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. 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. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sumer AuditCo

Signer ID: B7IXQS3DFV...

Adrian Staniforth (Senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of

Sumer Auditco Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
One Waterside Place
Basin Square
Brimington Road
Chesterfield
Derbyshire
S41 7FH

Date: 25/08/2026 GMT

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited
(A company limited by guarantee. Registered number 0715675)

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 March 2026

Income from:	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2026 £000	Restricted Funds 2026 £000	Total Funds 2026 £000	Total Funds 2025 £000
Donations and legacies	4	**1,823**	**74**	**1,897**	848
Charitable activities	5	**1,621**	**3,353**	**4,974**	4,600
Other trading activities	6	**18**	**-**	**18**	15
Investments	7	**2**	**-**	**2**	3
Other income	8	**6**	**-**	**6**	2
Total income		**3,470**	**3,427**	**6,897**	5,468
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	9	**1,433**	**157**	**1,590**	2,317
Charitable activities	10	**1,441**	**2,284**	**3,725**	3,659
Total expenditure		**2,874**	**2,441**	**5,315**	5,976
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		**596**	**986**	**1,582**	(508)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	18	**3**	**-**	**3**	(1)
Net movement income/ (expenditure)		**599**	**986**	**1,585**	(509)
Transfers between funds	23	**(22)**	**22**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised (losses)/gains		**577**	**1,008**	**1,585**	(509)
Other recognised (losses)/ gains:					
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets		**9**	**-**	**9**	-
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	29	**96**	**-**	**96**	54
Net movement in funds		**682**	**1,008**	**1,690**	(455)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**730**	**1,849**	**2,579**	3,034
Net movement in funds		**682**	**1,008**	**1,690**	(455)
Total funds carried forward		**1,412**	**2,857**	**4,269**	2,579

The Statement of Financial Activities complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006 and includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited
(A company limited by guarantee. Registered number 0715675)

Consolidated Balance Sheet
for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £000	2026 £000	2025 £000	2025 £000
Fixed assets					
Biological assets	15		**37**		43
Tangible assets	16		**481**		532
Heritage assets	17		**4,246**		4,246
Investments	18		**13**		10
			4,777		4,831
Current assets					
Stocks	19	**7**		14	
Debtors	20	**1,345**		930	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,557**		569	
		2,909		1,513	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	**(1,616)**		(1,500)	
Net current assets			**1,293**		13
Total assets less current liabilities			**6,070**		4,844
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	22		**(1,680)**		(2,017)
Net assets excluding pension liability			**4,390**		2,827
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	29		**(121)**		(248)
Total net assets			**4,269**		2,579
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	23		**2,857**		1,849
Unrestricted funds					
General funds including pension reserve (£125k) (2025: (£252k)) and revaluation reserve £nil (2025: £nil))	23	**1,412**		730	
Total unrestricted funds	23		**1,412**		730
Total funds			**4,269**		2,579

Consolidated Balance Sheet continued
for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signer ID: O4L2LRIDRF...

Dr P Rice

Date: 24/08/2026 GMT

The notes on pages 64 to 91 form part of these financial statements.

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Trust Balance Sheet
for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note		2026 £000		2025 £000
Fixed assets					
Biological assets	15		**37**		43
Tangible assets	16		**481**		532
Heritage assets	17		**4,246**		4,246
Investments	18		**43**		40
			4,807		4,861
Current assets					
Stocks	19	**7**		14	
Debtors	20	**1,345**		930	
Cash at bank and in hand		**1,557**		569	
		2,909		1,513	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	**(1,644)**		(1,528)	
Net current assets / liabilities			**1,265**		(15)
Total assets less current liabilities			**6,072**		4,846
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	22		**(1,680)**		(2,017)
Net assets excluding pension liability			**4,392**		2,829
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	29		**(121)**		(248)
Total net assets			**4,271**		2,581
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	23		**2,857**		1,849
Unrestricted funds					
General funds including pension reserve (£125k) (2025: (£252k)) and revaluation reserve £nil (2025: £nil))	23	**1,414**		732	
Unrestricted funds	23	**1,414**		732	
Total unrestricted funds	23		**1,414**		732
Total funds			**4,271**		2,581

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trust Balance Sheet continued
for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Trust's net movement in funds for the year was £1,690k (2025 - £(455)k).

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Patricia Rice
....
Signer ID: O4L2LRIDRF...
Dr P Rice

Date: 24/08/2026 GMT

The notes on pages 16 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £000	2025 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	25	**1,367**	176
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		**2**	1
Proceeds on disposal of tangible fixed assets and biological assets		**15**	1
Purchase of tangible fixed assets, biological assets and heritage assets		**(52)**	(158)
Proceeds from sale of investments		**-**	467
Purchase of investments		**-**	(160)
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		**(35)**	151
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayments of borrowing		**(344)**	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**988**	327
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**569**	242
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	26	**1,557**	569

1. General information

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Sandy Hill, Main Street, Middleton, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 4LR. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued in October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited 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.

The Consolidated statement of financial activities (SOFA) and Consolidated balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Trust and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis. The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £'000.

The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own statement of financial activities in these financial statements.

2.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Group to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation of the financial statements and have concluded that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2026

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Trust has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Trust has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Trust, can be reliably measured.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the Trust has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the Trust of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met, then these amounts are deferred.

Income from investments, Gift Aid and deeds of covenant is included and is accounted for when it is receivable or the Charity's right to it becomes legally enforceable.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under investments, Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

Membership income Is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities over the life of the subscription, taking into account the types of membership involved.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

The Charity and its subsidiaries are partially exempt from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the appropriate cost categories.

2.5 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Consolidated statement of financial activities upon the completion of the relevant performance-related conditions. Other grants that are not subject to performance-related conditions are credited to the Consolidated statement of financial activities as the grant proceeds are received. Grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria being satisfied are recognised as a liability.

2.6 Volunteer help

The Trust receives support from a wide variety of volunteers. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the Trust is not recognised. It is not practical to place a value on the time volunteered by these persons, due to the variety of duties performed, the differences in time spent and the sheer number of volunteers who gave of their time.

Deferred research and development costs are reviewed annually, and where future benefits are deemed to have ceased or to be in doubt, the balance of any related research and development is written off to the Consolidated statementof financial activities.

2.7 Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Sch. 6, para. 1 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Pt. 11, Ch. 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or s. 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2.8 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 SOFA in the year in which they arise. Fair value is based upon the estimation of values by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust management team and is considered by the Trustees to be a fair reflection of the estimated value at the year-end.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.9 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Leasehold property	- 2% per annum straight line
Motor vehicles	- 20% per annum straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 25% per annum straight line
Hides and temporary buildings	- 10% per annum straight line

2.10 Heritage assets

The Charity's objects include the conservation of nature for the purpose of study and research and to educate the public in understanding and appreciation of nature, the awareness of its value and the need for its conservation. As such the Charity owns and maintains a number of nature reserves that fall into the definition of heritage assets in accordance with FRS 102. These assets are recognised on the balance sheet and initially measured as cost when purchased or if donated, their valuation.

Being land in nature they have not been depreciated. The costs of maintaining the heritage assets are expensed through the statement of financial activities as incurred, as part of the Trust's charitable activities.

2.11 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the consolidated statement of financial activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

2.13 Debtors

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

2.14 Cash at bank and in hand

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

2.15 Liabilities

Liabilities and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the consolidated statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

2.16 Financial instruments

The Group only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.17 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the consolidated statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.18 Pensions

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is part of a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme of which assets of the scheme are held in a separately administered fund. The liabilities have been calculated based on the preliminary results of the full scheme funding assessment as at 31 March 2022, updated to 31 March 2023. The present value of the defined benefit obligation was measured using the projected unit credit method.

2.19 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2.20 Redundancy payments

Redundancy benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or whenever an employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits. The charity recognises redundancy benefits when it is committed to terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal.

2.21 Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited and all of its subsidiary undertakings ('subsidiaries'). The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption contained within section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 not to present its own Income and expenditure account.

The income and expenditure account for the year dealt with in the accounts of the Trust was a surplus of £1,690,000 (2025: £455,000 deficit).

Donations from these groups are treated in accordance with the income policy above.

3. 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.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, 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.

Critical areas of judgement:

Support costs

Many of the costs incurred by the Charity such as support staff costs and service costs are shared between activities. The charity's policy is to allocate these costs on the basis of staff numbers.

Defined benefit pension scheme

The present value of the defined benefit scheme depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost/income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 29, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability.

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £000	**Restricted funds 2026 £000**	**Total funds 2026 £000**	Total funds 2025 £000
Gift aid	163	1	**164**	127
Legacies	888	-	**888**	71
Donations from individuals	169	65	**234**	97
Corporate body donations	22	3	**25**	6
Membership income	581	5	**586**	547
	1,823	74	**1,897**	848
Total 2025	837	11	848	

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5. Analysis of income from charitable activities by type of income

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £000	**Restricted funds 2026 £000**	**Total funds 2026 £000**	Total funds 2025 £000
Government bodies	30	17	**47**	96
Environmental agency	-	15	**15**	25
Corporate bodies	-	804	**804**	925
Charitable bodies	215	2,483	**2,698**	1,745
Service level agreements	288	-	**288**	218
Education, conservation and training	1,067	34	**1,101**	1,561
Reserve management	21	-	**21**	30
	1,621	3,353	**4,974**	4,600
Total 2025	1,724	2,876	4,600	

6. Income from other trading activities

Income from non charitable trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £000	**Total funds 2026 £000**	Total funds 2025 £000
Shop income	1	**1**	2
Fundraising events	11	**11**	12
Other income	6	**6**	1
	18	**18**	15
Total 2025	15	**15**	

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £000	Total funds 2026 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Investment income – dividends	2	**2**	1
Pension income	-	**-**	2
	2	**2**	3
Total 2025	3	3	

8. Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Profit on disposal of assets	-	**-**	1
Sundry income	6	**6**	1
	6	**6**	2
Total 2025	2	**2**	

9. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £000	Total funds 2026 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Costs of raising voluntary income - pension costs	82	**82**	326
Total 2025	326	326	

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9. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)

Fundraising trading expenses

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £000	Restricted funds 2026 £000	Total funds 2026 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Costs of raising funds	381	61	**442**	803
Costs of raising funds – wages and salaries	843	96	**939**	1,082
Support costs	127	-	**127**	106
	1,351	157	**1,508**	1,991
Total 2025	1,374	617	1,991	

Analysis of support costs

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Staff costs	**67**	63
Depreciation	**12**	9
Governance (note 11)	**2**	3
IT costs	**7**	6
Office costs	**-**	1
Other costs	**39**	24
	127	106

Support costs are allocated on the basis of staff numbers.

10. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2026 £000	**Support costs 2026 £000**	**Total funds 2026 £000**	Total funds 2025 £000
Wildlife sites	2,481	386	**2,867**	2,654
Inspiring people	90	255	**345**	327
Nature reserves	252	253	**505**	678
Loss on disposal of assets	8	-	**8**	-
	2,831	894	**3,725**	3,659
Total 2025	2,908	751	3,659	

Analysis of support costs

	Wildlife sites 2026 £000	**Inspiring people 2026 £000**	**Nature reserves 2026 £000**	**Total funds 2026 £000**	Total funds 2025 £000
Staff costs	182	134	133	**449**	443
Depreciation	40	24	24	**88**	63
Governance (note 11)	7	4	4	**15**	26
IT costs	25	15	15	**55**	40
Office costs	1	1	1	**3**	4
Other costs	131	77	76	**284**	175
Total 2026	386	255	253	**894**	751
Total 2025	334	209	208	751	

During the year, the categorisation of support costs has been reviewed and updated to better reflect the nature of the underlying expenditure. Comparative figures have not been restated as the impact is purely presentational.

Support costs are allocated on the basis of staff numbers.

11. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £000	**Total funds 2026 £000**	Total funds 2025 £000
Auditor's remuneration	25	**25**	24
Other professional fees	-	**-**	5
	25	**25**	29
Total 2025	28	28	

12. Auditor's remuneration

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Fees payable to the Trust's auditor for the audit of the Trust's annual accounts	**20**	19
Fees payable to the Trust's auditor in respect of:		
All taxation advisory services not included above	**4**	4
All non-audit services not included above	**1**	1

13. Staff costs

	Group 2026 £000	Group 2025 £000	**Trust 2026 £000**	Trust 2025 £000
Wages and salaries	**2,446**	2,527	**2,446**	2,527
Social security costs	**306**	235	**306**	235
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**297**	303	**297**	303
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	**82**	326	**82**	326
	3,131	3,391	**3,131**	3,391

During the year, redundancy payments were paid to 2 employees totalling £38,306 (2025: £13,000 to 4 employees).

13. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Trust during the year was as follows:

	Group 2026 No.	Group 2025 No.
	80	85

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

	Group 2026 No.	Group 2025 No.
In the band 60,001 – 70,000	**1**	1
In the band 80,001 – 90,000	**1**	1

Total employee benefits of £561,253 (2025: £413,805) were paid to the key management personnel in the year. The key management personnel are the senior management team.

14. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2025 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2026, expenses of £118 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Trustee. (2025: £446 to 2 Trustees). The expenses were for reimbursement of travel costs.

Donations totalling £2,009 were received from 4 trustees during the year (2025: £NIL).

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15. Biological assets

Group and Trust

	Livestock £000
Cost	
At 1 April 2025	**43**
Disposals	**(15)**
Revaluations	**9**
At 31 March 2026	**37**
Net book value	
At 31 March 2026	**37**
At 31 March 2025	43

Livestock were valued in the year to 31 March 2026 at £37,000 (2025: £43,000) consisting of 26 cattle (2025: 36 cattle) and 10 ponies (2025: 10 ponies).

16. Tangible fixed assets

Group and Trust

	Long-term leasehold property £000	**Motor vehicles £000**	**Fixtures and fittings £000**	**Other fixed assets £000**	**Total £000**
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2025	**419**	**76**	**327**	**256**	**1,078**
Additions	**-**	**-**	**50**	**2**	**52**
Disposals	**-**	**(24)**	**(20)**	**-**	**(44)**
At 31 March 2026	**419**	**52**	**357**	**258**	**1,086**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2025	**175**	**59**	**203**	**109**	**546**
Charge for the year	**8**	**3**	**46**	**46**	**103**
On disposals	**-**	**(24)**	**(20)**	**-**	**(44)**
At 31 March 2026	**183**	**38**	**229**	**155**	**605**
Net book value					
At 31 March 2026	**236**	**14**	**128**	**103**	**481**
At 31 March 2025	244	17	124	147	532

17. Heritage assets

Group and Trust

Assets recognised at cost

	Heritage assets 2026 £000
Carrying value at 1 April 2025	4,246
Carrying value at 31 March 2026	4,246

The Trust's nature reserves are held to advance the conservation objectives of the charity and therefore are recognised as heritage assets. Such assets are central to the achievements of the Trust. Purchased heritage assets are included in the balance sheet at cost. Donated assets are only included in the balance sheet where a reliable valuation can be obtained at the date of donation.

The following nature reserves have been purchased or donated throughout the life of the Trust:

Barton Pool
Broadhurst Edge Wood
Carr Vale
Chee Dale SSSI
Common Farm
Cramside Wood SSSI
Deepdale and Topley Pike SSSI
Duckmanton Railway Cutting SSSI
Dunsley Meadows & Slinter Woods
Erewash Meadows
Gang Mine (part)
Hartington Meadows (part)
Hillbridge and Park Woods (part)
Hilton Gravel Pits SSSI
Ladybower Wood SSSI
Lea Wood
Long Clough
Morley Brickyards SSSI
North Wingfield
Old Whittington
Overdale
Priestcliffe Lees SSSI
Risley Gelbe (part)
Rose End Meadows
Willington
Willington Gravel Pits
Woodside

17. Heritage assets (continued)

In addition, the following are being leased or rented at a nominal rental:

The Avenue Washlands
Brockholes Woods SSSI
Carvers Rocks SSSI
Cromford Canal LNR/SSSI
Drakelow
Gang Mine (part)
Golden Brook Storage Lagoon
Mapperley Wood
Hadfields Quarry
Hartington Meadows (part)
Hillbridge and Park Woods (part)
Hollinhill and Markland Grips
Holly Wood
Hopton Quarry SSSI
Lock Lane Ash Tip
Millers Dale Quarry SSSI
Oakerthorpe LNR
Risley Glebe (part)
Rowsley Sidlings
Spring Wood SSSI
Watford Lodge LNR
Witches Oak Water
Wyver Lane

*SSSIs: Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Public access to the sites is generally unrestricted subject to health and safety, temporary operational or other restrictions such as within leases or conveyance documents.

Analysis of heritage asset transactions

Group and Trust

	2026 £000	**2025 £000**	**2024 £000**	**2023 £000**	**2022 £000**
Purchases					
Heritage asset – at cost	-	-	2,173	603	131
Total additions	-	-	2,173	603	131

18. Fixed asset investments

Group	Listed investments £000	Total 2026 £000	Total 2025 £000
Valuation			
At 1 April 2025	10	**10**	318
Additions	-	**-**	160
Disposals	-	**-**	(467)
Revaluations	3	**3**	(1)
At 31 March 2026	13	**13**	10
Investment cash			-
At 31 March 2026	13	**13**	10

Trust	Investment In subsidiary £000	Listed Investments £000	Total 2026 £000	Total 2025 £000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2025	30	10	**40**	348
Additions	-	-	**-**	160
Disposals	-	-	**-**	(467)
Revaluations	-	3	**3**	(1)
At 31 March 2026	30	13	**43**	40
Investment cash	-			-
At 31 March 2026	30	13	**43**	40

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Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Trust:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Class of shares	Holding
Derbyshire Wildlife Resources (dormant)	02262893	As parent	ordinary	100%

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Net assets £000
Derbyshire Wildlife Resources (dormant)	**28**

19. Stocks

	Group 2026 £000	Group 2025 £000	Trust 2026 £000	Trust 2025 £000
Finished goods and goods for resale	**7**	14	**7**	14

20. Debtors

	Group 2026 £000	Group 2025 £000	Trust 2026 £000	Trust 2025 £000
Trade debtors	**250**	207	**250**	207
Other debtors	**567**	99	**567**	99
Prepayments and accrued income	**528**	624	**528**	624
	1,345	930	**1,345**	930

21. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2026 £000	Group 2025 £000	Trust 2026 £000	Trust 2025 £000
Other loans	**683**	690	**683**	690
Trade creditors	**356**	366	**356**	366
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**-**	-	**28**	28
Other taxation and social security	**128**	93	**128**	93
Other creditors	**27**	35	**27**	35
Accruals and deferred income	**422**	316	**422**	316
	1,616	1,500	**1,644**	1,528

	Group 2026 £000	Group 2025 £000	Trust 2026 £000	Trust 2025 £000
Deferred income at 1 April 2025	**104**	30	**104**	30
Resources deferred during the year	**152**	104	**152**	104
Amounts released from previous periods	**(104)**	(30)	**(104)**	(30)
Deferred income at 31 March 2026	**152**	104	**152**	104

Deferred income relates to eco services that have been billed for in advance of the work being carried out. The income is initially recognised as a liability and is released to revenue as the services are delivered.

22. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2026 £000	Group 2025 £000	Trust 2026 £000	Trust 2025 £000
Other loans	**1,676**	2,013	**1,676**	2,013
Defined benefit pension deficit liability	**4**	4	**4**	4
	1,680	2,017	**1,680**	2,017

Within other loans over one year are loans relating to the purchase of the Old Whittington site which is to be repaid in 3 years with interest to be incurred in the final two years at 1% and 2% respectively and loans in relation to the purchase of Common Farm in the current year which are a range of lengths from 2-5 years with interest rates of 0% - 5%.

In prior years the Trust contributed to a Growth Plan available through the Pensions Trust for previous chief executives. Under the terms of the Pensions Trust scheme, where an employer withdraws from the Pension Trust, a lump sum contribution to the overall scheme deficit becomes due. As at 31 March 2026, the Trust's lump sum would amount to approximately £4k (2025: £4k). This has been provided for in the accounts. The total pension charge relating to this scheme is £nil (2025: £nil).

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23. Statement of funds

Statement of funds – current year

	Balance at 1 April 2025 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 March 2026 £000
Unrestricted funds						
All general funds	982	3,470	(2,905)	(22)	12	1,537
Pension reserve	(252)	-	31	-	96	(125)
	730	3,470	(2,874)	(22)	108	1,412
Restricted funds						
Nature reserve asset	1,142	-	-	-	-	1,142
Digital Hub	(22)	-	-	22	-	-
RSA Rivers	-	237	(133)	-	-	104
LIFE in the Ravines	-	59	(33)	-	-	26
Wilding Chesterfield	-	123	(81)	-	-	42
Best of British	-	50	-	-	-	50
Beaver Feasibility AI	-	99	(80)	-	-	19
NLHF Species Survival 5 Year	-	109	(2)	-	-	107
Raynesway	50	159	(181)	-	-	28
Species Recovery	366	12	(115)	-	-	263
Species Survival	64	840	(904)	-	-	-
Middleton Moor BIFFA	-	826	-	-	-	826
Middleton Moor SWIRE	-	100	(83)	-	-	17
Call of the Wild	8	-	(8)	-	-	-
Allestree Park	97	290	(319)	-	-	68
NEIRF 3	-	51	(51)	-	-	-
Bring Back Lost Species Fund	-	57	(41)	-	-	16
Other restricted	144	415	(410)	-	-	149
	1,849	3,427	(2,441)	22	-	2,857
Total of funds	2,579	6,897	(5,315)	-	108	4,269

23. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds – prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 March 2025 £000
Unrestricted funds						
Designated Funds	87	-	(87)	-	-	-
General funds						
All general funds	1,007	2,579	(2,560)	(43)	(1)	982
Pension reserve	(4)	2	(304)	-	54	(252)
	1,003	2,581	(2,864)	(43)	53	730
Total Unrestricted funds	1,090	2,581	(2,951)	(43)	53	730
Restricted funds						
Nature reserve asset	1,142	-	-	-	-	1,142
Digital Hub	(11)	16	(27)	-	-	(22)
RSA Rivers	187	334	(521)	-	-	-
Wilding Chesterfield	-	325	(325)	-	-	-
Beaver Feasibility AI	-	30	(30)	-	-	-
Willington Wetlands	49	36	(85)	-	-	-
Raynesway	38	150	(138)	-	-	50
Species Recovery	400	167	(201)	-	-	366
Species Survival	-	596	(532)	-	-	64
Middleton Moor BIFFA	-	142	(142)	-	-	-
Middleton Moor SWIRE	-	11	(11)	-	-	-
Call of the Wild	(28)	335	(299)	-	-	8
Allestree Park	(43)	342	(245)	43	-	97
NEIRF 3	48	15	(63)	-	-	-
Other restricted	162	388	(406)	-	-	144
	1,944	2,887	(3,025)	43	-	1,849
Total of funds	3,034	5,468	(5,976)	-	53	2,579

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24. Statement of funds (continued)

Designated Funds

These are funds dedicated for three Wild solutions projects being completed in 24/25.

These projects have now been completed and therefore transferred to general funds.

Restricted Funds

Nature Reserve Asset: the value of the nature reserve heritage assets held by the charity.

Digital Hub: The Digital Hub is a project trialling a shared, regional approach to digital supporter recruitment, engagement and fundraising for 6 different wildlife trusts.

Witches Oak Severn Trent Water: This is a project focusing on improving the biodiversity on the Southern Lakes at Witches Oak Water with a range of interventions including reedbed creation, grassland management, wetland restoration and hedge management. It also includes installing fencing and boardwalk in order to support visitor access, and installation of benches and interpretation boards to give key information on the site heritage and biodiversity works.

Working For Nature: A scheme to train 24 trainees across 4 years, from hard to reach backgrounds, to achieve a Level 2 Diploma in Environmental Conservation and provide employability skills. This fund has now been consolidated into 'other restricted funds' as it is not material.

Slinter Woods: This was funds provided by the National Heritage Lottery funds to buy land at Cromford, this was key to expanding our reserve which we already have at Dunsley Meadows which includes an ancient woodland.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund: funded by Defra, through the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It is undertaking a series of projects across the county to deliver nature's recovery, as well as improving internal processes, developing a pipeline of projects and de-carbonising, where possible, land management. This fund has now been consolidated into 'other restricted funds' as it is not material.

Willington Wetlands: a programme to develop the site as key gateway site in the Trent Valley. It is made up of various projects, including the beaver reintroduction project and access improvements. This fund has now been consolidated into 'other restricted funds' as it is not material.

Raynesway: Derbyshire County Council has contracted Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to manage the land at Derwent Meadows site at Raynesway Derby. This is an initial 10-year lease to undertake site management and engagement activities working with local communities. The site had been acquired by section 106 monies and there is an annual budget of c£150,000 which is agreed annually and used for habitat improvements, access improvements and engagement activities.

Species Recovery: This is a project to support nature's recovery in Derbyshire by surveying land, restoring habitats and exploring green funding mechanisms for future management. It will deliver work on 24 sites owned by other landowners and provide management plans to ensure the sites are managed appropriately in future. It will also provide 20 grants for people to kickstart rewilding on additional sites.

Green Spring: This is from Derby & Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group for the Green Social Prescribing project and will be spent to deliver projects from a wide variety of charities and organisations. It will cover the cost of these organisations delivering the wellbeing projects, and for salary costs for DWT. This fund has now been consolidated into 'other restricted funds' as it is not material.

River Ecclesbourne Restoration: Severn Trent Water donated the sum of £270,000 to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to be used by the Trust to fund work within the Project Scope. The Project Scope is primarily to reconnect the River Ecclesbourne to a former side channel that would bypass an existing weir at Postern Mill. Any remaining funds will be spent on landowner liaison, catchment walkovers, habitat improvements and interventions in the surrounding catchment, identified through ongoing and future engagement activities.

Bring Back Lost Species Fund: This fund supports the Bring Back Lost Species programme, which focuses on bringing back locally extinct native species, including white storks, pine martens, and Eurasian elk. The programme forms part of the wider Wilder 2030 Fund.

Other restricted funds: Included within here are all other immaterial restricted monies given to the charity to carry out restricted purposes.

Crich Chase Community Appeal: This is an appeal that was set up to secure funding for the Crich Chase Meadows woodland.

River Amber catchment Project: Working to reduce diffuse agricultural pollution currently resulting in high phosphate levels across the Amber catchment due to the amount of sediment entering the watercourses.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) Project: Derbyshire's Nature Recovery and Natural Capital Aggregator. Working in partnership with Triodos Bank, the project aims to develop a new funding model to attract private investment to finance the purchase and management of more space for nature. This fund has now been consolidated into 'other restricted funds' as it is not material.

Appeal Willington Project: Appeal for Willington was a public appeal that saw supporters from across Derbyshire give to support the reintroduction of beavers to Willington Wetlands. The beavers are fully introduced and are creating a sustainable habitat and have gone on to have kits. This fund has now been consolidated into 'other restricted funds' as it is not material.

24. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds – current year

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £000	Restricted funds 2026 £000	Total funds 2026 £000
Tangible fixed assets	481	-	**481**
Intangible fixed assets	37	-	**37**
Fixed asset investments	13	-	**13**
Heritage assets	3,104	1,142	**4,246**
Current assets	1,194	1,715	**2,909**
Creditors due within one year	(1,616)	-	**(1,616)**
Creditors due in more than one year	(1,680)	-	**(1,680)**
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(121)	-	**(121)**
Total	1,412	2,857	**4,269**

Analysis of net assets between funds – prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Tangible fixed assets	532	-	**532**
Intangible fixed assets	43	-	**43**
Fixed asset investments	10	-	**10**
Heritage assets	3,104	1,142	**4,246**
Current assets	806	707	**1,513**
Creditors due within one year	(1,500)	-	**(1,500)**
Creditors due in more than one year	(2,017)	-	**(2,017)**
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(248)	-	**(248)**
Total	730	1,849	**2,579**

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited
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Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2026

25. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2026 £000	Group 2025 £000
Net income/(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**1,585**	(509)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**103**	69
(Gains)/losses on investments	**(3)**	1
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	**(2)**	(1)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	**-**	(1)
Decrease in stocks	**7**	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**(415)**	138
Increase in creditors	**123**	177
Defined benefit pension adjustments	**(31)**	302
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	**1,367**	176

26. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2026 £000	Group 2025 £000
Cash in hand	**1,557**	569
Total cash and cash equivalents	**1,557**	569

27. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2025 £000	Cash Flows £000	At 31 March 2026 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	**569**	**988**	**1,557**
Debt due within 1 year	**(690)**	**7**	**(683)**
Debt due after 1 year	**(2,013)**	**337**	**(1,676)**
	(2,134)	**1,332**	**(802)**

28. Contingent assets

At the balance sheet date, the charity had been notified of a number of legacies for which the criteria for income recognition under the Charities SORP have not yet been met. Accordingly, no income has been recognised in these financial statements.

Due to the stage of administration of the underlying estates and the limited information currently available from executors, it is not practicable to estimate reliably the financial effect of these legacies at the balance sheet date.

The ultimate value and timing of receipt of these legacies are uncertain and depend on factors outside the charity's control, including the settlement of estate liabilities, the realisation of estate assets and the resolution of any claims on the estates.

The trustees expect that a proportion of these legacies will be received in future periods, however the timing and amounts cannot be determined with sufficient reliability at the reporting date.

29. Pension commitments

The Group operates a defined benefit pension scheme.

Under the requirements of FRS 102, the Trust includes the assets and liabilities of these arrangements in its balance sheet. Current service costs, curtailment and settlement gains and losses, and net financial returns are included in the statement of financial activities in the period which they relate. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

The most recent full Actuarial Valuation was at 31 March 2022 by a qualified independent actuary in accordance with FRS 102. As required by FRS 102, the defined benefit liabilities have been measured using the Projected Unit actuarial cost method.

The Trust's contributions for the year were £67,000 (2025: £45,000).

During the year ended 31 March 2022, the trustees of the charity were made aware of a potential issue relating to the defined benefit section of the Wildlife Trust Pension Scheme. A detailed investigation has now established that there is a financial liability to employers who participated in that section, and that Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's share of the total liability is £326,000. It had been agreed with the Pension Trustee that this liability will be paid off over a six-year period.

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

	At 31 March 2026 %	At 31 March 2025 %
Discount rate	**6.15**	5.80
Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation	**3.50**	3.30
Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation	**2.75**	2.75
Future pension increases	**5.00**	5.00

	At 31 March 2026 Years	At 31 March 2025 Years
Mortality rates (in years)		
- for a male aged 65 now	**22.6**	22.3
- at 65 for a male aged 45 now	**23.9**	23.6
- for a female aged 65 now	**24.9**	24.8
- at 65 for a female aged 45 now	**26.3**	26.2

29. Pension commitments (continued)

The Group's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 March 2026 £000	At 31 March 2025 £000
Diversified Credit Fund	**58**	70
Alternatives	**23**	13
Cash and other liquid assets	**113**	94
Overseas equities	**144**	136
UK corporate bonds	**62**	64
LDI	**267**	279
Total fair value of assets	**667**	656

The actual return on scheme assets was £37,000 (2025 - £33,000).

The amounts recognised in the consolidated statement of financial activities are as follows:

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Past service cost	**-**	326
Interest income	**(37)**	(33)
Interest cost	**50**	31
Administrative expenses	**23**	24
Total amount recognised in the consolidated statement of financial activities	**36**	348

29. Pension commitments (continued)

Movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligation were as follows:

	2026 £000
Opening defined benefit obligation	**904**
Interest cost	**50**
Actuarial (gains)/losses	**(70)**
Unrecognised actuarial gains	**-**
Past service costs	**-**
Benefits paid	**(96)**
Closing defined benefit obligation	**788**

Movements in the fair value of the Group's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2026 £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	**656**
Expected return on assets	**37**
Actuarial gains/(losses)	**26**
Contributions by employer	**67**
Benefits paid	**(96)**
Administration expenses	**(23)**
Closing fair value of scheme assets	**667**

Defined benefit pension scheme (surplus)/liability

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Defined benefit obligation	**788**	904
Fair value of scheme assets	**(667)**	(656)
Net pension liability	**121**	248

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Limited
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Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2026

Recognised in other comprehensive income

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £000	Total funds 2026 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Actuarial gain on liabilities	70	**70**	74
Actuarial gain on assets	26	**26**	58
Irrecoverable net pension surplus	-	**-**	(78)
	96	**96**	54

The Trust also contributes to a defined contribution scheme for both the deferred members of the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme and new entrants. The total pension charge relating to these defined contribution schemes for the year was £67,000 (2025: £45,000).

30. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2026 the Group and the Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group 2026 £000	Group 2025 £000	Trust 2026 £000	Trust 2025 £000
Not later than 1 year	**32**	73	**32**	76
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**17**	49	**17**	49
	49	122	**49**	122

Lease payments of £73,000 have been recognised in the statement of financial activities (2025: £60,000).

31. Related party transactions

During the year, the charity purchased marketing and advertising services totalling £21,852 (2025: £28,815) from Agency BC, a company of which a close family member of Phillipa Chappell, a member of the charity's senior leadership team, is a director. At the year end, an amount of £6,744 (2025: £7,920) was owed to Agency BC. During the year, the charity also purchased marketing and advertising services totalling £54,163 from Fluid Ideas Limited, a company of which Edward Bowler, who was appointed as a trustee during the year, is a director. At the year end, an amount of £7,800 was owed to Fluid Ideas Limited.

As Mr Bowler was not a trustee during the prior year, no comparative related party transaction disclosure is required in respect of Fluid Ideas Limited.

The trustees confirm that all transactions with related parties were conducted on an arm's length basis, on normal commercial terms, and in the best interests of the charity. Where applicable, appropriate conflict of interest procedures were followed, and the individuals concerned took no part in discussions or decisions relating to the procurement of services from the organisations concerned.

32. Post balance sheet events

Subsequent to the year end and prior to the approval of these financial statements, the Charity completed the purchase of land known as Middleton Moor for a total consideration of £816,733. The acquisition was funded through grants received and donations raised for this purpose and forms part of the Charity's long-term objectives in supporting its charitable activities.

In addition, the Charity made loan repayments totalling £370,000 after the reporting date in accordance with the terms of its borrowing arrangements.

These transactions are considered non-adjusting events as they relate to conditions arising after the reporting date and, accordingly, have not been recognised in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026. The Trustees consider both transactions to be material and have therefore disclosed them in accordance with the requirements of FRS 102 Section 32 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), which require disclosure of material nonadjusting events occurring after the reporting period.

Trustee Directory

Reference and administrative details of the Trust, its Trustees and Advisers
for the year ended 31 March 2026:

Trustees

Dr P Rice, Chair
(elected September 2025)
Ms PD Asher, Treasurer
Miss C Turton-Chambers
Mr D Renwick
Mr E Bowler (appointed November 2025)
Ms G Foxcroft
Mr J Dixon
Professor L Crowe
Dr R Cuthbert
Mrs SL Gradwell
Dr T Graham
Ms W Furness
Mr P Lynch (resigned September 2025)
Mr N Huish (resigned September 2025)

Company registered number

00715675

Charity registered number

222212

Registered office

Sandy Hill, Main Street, Middleton, Matlock,
Derbyshire, DE4 4LR

Company Secretary

Mrs A E Rogers

Chief executive officer

Dr J Smith

Senior management team

A E Rogers
M Buckler (resigned May 2026)
L Witham (resigned February 2026)
D Brown
F Ojok
R Bennett
P Chappell

Independent auditor

Sumer Auditco Limited, Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor, One Waterside Place,
Basin Square, Brimington Road, Chesterfield
S41 7FH

Bankers

National Westminster Bank PLC, 58 St. Peters
Street, Derby, DE1 1XL

Solicitors

Freeths LLP, Suite 2, 1st Floor, South Point,
Cardinal Square, DE1 3QT

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DWT Staff at Eyam © Fluid

Leave a gift **for nature**

"A legacy to your local Wildlife Trust is a very special gift that can do remarkable things to help the wildlife treasures on your doorstep."

Sir David Attenborough

After providing for your loved ones, please remember the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

When you are ready, we are here to talk.

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