

Leicestershire
& Rutland
Wildlife Trust
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2017 - 2018



**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
Wildlife Trust

The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is a membership organisation, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. At 31st March 2018 a total of 15,742 members supported the Trust's work.

The Trust is managed by a Council of Trustees, elected from its members, who provide the overall direction for the development of the Trust. The day-to-day work of the Trust is delivered by a team of 30 staff assisted by more than 700 active volunteers.

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is one of 46 separate Wildlife Trusts that form a powerful conservation network of local charities taking effective action to protect the UK's unique natural heritage. Together we have over 800,000 members, manage more than 2,300 nature reserves, run thousands of projects and events and work together to ensure that both local and national policies and decisions are in the best interests of wildlife and wild places.

Our Mission

To protect and enhance the wildlife and wild places of Leicestershire and Rutland and to engage people with nature.

Our Vision

A Living Landscape rich in wildlife, valued and enjoyed by all.

Our work

The Trust works to safeguard local wildlife by:

Protecting precious places

We care for 35 nature reserves covering 1,234 hectares (3,048 acres), spread across Leicestershire and Rutland. From woodland to meadows, wetland to heaths, these reserves contain a rich variety of animal and plant species, many rare.

Encouraging people to enjoy nature

We offer everyone the chance to experience some of Leicestershire and Rutland's wonderful wildlife. Activities and events are organised throughout the year, everything from badger watches to the Birdfair.

Inspiring and educating

We invest in the future by helping people of all ages to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of nature. Children can take part too – our junior club Wildlife Watch is for young people who want to find out more about wildlife, make friends and have fun.

Research and survey

We monitor, study and survey the wildlife of our counties to identify special places and important species, to inform management and promote nature conservation, and to protect local biodiversity.

Speaking out

We campaign for wildlife, protecting threatened habitats like wildflower meadows and rare species such as ospreys, otters, bats and water voles.



Review of achievements and performance for the year

This Annual Report covers the period
1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018
and outlines our progress and
achievement over the year

Highlights include:

- Creating a new woodland at Lubenham in South Leicestershire
- Launching Wild About Learning, a curriculum-linked teacher's pack, to support and encourage teachers to take their lessons outdoors
- Hosting a Wild Weekend of activities for young people at Rutland Water Nature Reserve
- Recording the best breeding season to date for the Rutland Osprey Project

The Report covers the Trust's main activities and achievements in two key main strategic objectives.

- Safeguarding wildlife and wild places
- Inspiring people



With your help we safeguard wildlife and wild places

Nature Reserves

The Trust's nature reserves provide protection for an amazing diversity of wildlife, some rare and threatened, as well as giving people the opportunity to explore, experience and learn about the rich variety of wildlife and wild places that were once widespread. The Trust currently manages 35 nature reserves covering 1,234 hectares (3,048 acres), including 19 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, two National Nature Reserves and a Special Protection Area.

Land acquisition

High land prices continue to be a significant challenge for land purchase, so the Trust was delighted to acquire four acres of species-rich floodplain meadow, extending its nature reserve at Loughborough Big Meadow. Much of Loughborough Big Meadow is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and contains a very rich diversity of plants including great burnet, meadow saxifrage, yellow rattle, common birds-foot-trefoil and pepper saxifrage. It also contains a large population of narrow-leaved water-dropwort classified as Nationally Near-Threatened.

Habitat management

A huge amount of effort from staff and volunteers goes into practical nature conservation work on the Trust's nature reserves to ensure they reach their full natural potential as wildlife havens.

Key elements of habitat management carried out during the year included:

*Top and inset:
The community tree
planting at Fox Meadow
was a family event for
many of the volunteers.
(Tony Clarke)*

*Four acres at Loughborough
Big Meadow have been
added to the Trust's
landholding. (LRWT)*

- Creating a new woodland, Fox Wood, at Lubenham in South Leicestershire, an area with little existing woodland cover. More than 100 local people turned out to help plant 1,500 native UK broadleaf trees and shrubs, including alder, aspen and oak plus hazel and spindle. Areas of open space have been incorporated in the new woodland that will develop well on the loamy clay soil and offer many wildlife benefits.
- Addition of Welsh Black cattle and further Hebridean sheep to boost conservation grazing of the Trust's grassland reserves, improving the sward and preventing encroachment of scrub and secondary woodland.
- Fencing work and installation of a new cattle drink at Cossington Meadows to facilitate conservation grazing.
- Installation of a carefully designed mesh screen at Wanlip Meadows to catch flood water rubbish from the adjacent River Soar and prevent it from reaching a large part of the nature reserve.
- Repairs to a grille over a mine adit at Brown's Hill Quarry to prevent unauthorised access and disturbance of an important bat roost.
- Woodland restoration work involving rotational coppicing, thinning, creation of glades and scallops, conifer removal, ride-widening and mowing at Cloud Wood, Great Merrible Wood, Launde Big Wood, Launde Park Wood and Prior's Coppice. This creates more open woodland areas and a wider variety of habitat niches, encouraging diverse ground flora and associated invertebrates and a range of other wildlife including birds and bats.
- Bracken control combined with gorse and bramble clearance across extensive areas of heathland nature reserves, including Altar Stones, Charnwood Lodge and Ulverscroft, to restore the now-scarce open heath grassland habitat.
- Scrub removal at Bloody Oaks Quarry, Ketton Quarry and the Holwell nature reserves to enhance the species-rich limestone grassland.



*Stormy day for the Trust's
Welsh Black cattle at
Cossington Meadows
Nature Reserve.
(Iain Yexley)*

*Braving the elements at
Hambleton Wood.
(Paul Trevor/LRWT)*



Rutland Water Nature Reserve

The Trust's long-standing partnership with Anglian Water to manage this internationally important wetland saw further extensive habitat management during the year.

Restoration work in Hambleton Wood involved staff and volunteer teams clearing a large area of bracken and working in all weathers to plant 800 native UK broadleaf trees, including cherry, field maple, oak and willow. Further coppice work was also undertaken, followed by planting of 250 hazel trees to ensure a good understorey.

Two new islands were created in the large shallow wetland scrape within the Wet Meadow area, adjacent to Lagoon 1, which will benefit breeding wading birds. On the south-eastern side of Lagoon 1, hedge planting was completed to create a new wildlife corridor, linking habitats.

*The recently created
Sharples Meadow at
Rutland Water Nature
Reserve along the southern
side of Lagoon 4
developed well, with a
profusion of wildflowers
attracting numerous
butterflies and other
invertebrates.
Management work
included a hay cut and
removal of arisings, plus
weed control. Repeating
this annually will gradually
lower the soil fertility and
allow wildflowers to
flourish over vigorous
grasses and other flora.
(Joe Davis/LRWT)*





Work undertaken included:

- Vegetation quadrat monitoring at key sites.
- Monthly bird transect surveys along two selected fixed routes.
- Weekly butterfly transect surveys from April to September along two routes.
- Bat monitoring at various locations using an automatic bat recorder and camera trap.
- Wildlife identification training for volunteer surveyors.

In addition, a wide range of habitat surveys were carried out, involving close liaison and communication with a range of landowners and managers, and provision of tailored advice and support to encourage land management with wildlife in mind.

*Orange-tip butterfly.
(Gianpiero Ferrari)
Beacon Hill in the
Charnwood Forest Living
Landscape. (LRWT)*

Living Landscape Projects

Wildlife needs room to thrive and must have more opportunity to move across the countryside in order to adapt to whatever conditions arise in the future. Living Landscapes restore, recreate and reconnect fragmented habitats to create a sustainable biodiversity network and an environment full of wildlife and rich in opportunities for learning, health and well-being.

The Trust's Charnwood Forest Living Landscape project aims to conserve and enhance the unique wildlife, geology and character of this special area, and during the year a long-term wildlife monitoring scheme was further developed. This uses a standardised methodology that can be repeated regularly over a number of years to collect data and demonstrate changes to habitats and species populations.





Discovering orange-tip butterfly eggs at Moira in the Heart of the National Forest as part of a survey for the Black to Green project. (Ben Devine/LRWT)

Within the Soar Valley Living Landscape area, the Trust undertook further habitat survey work at various sites, liaised with key landowners and carried out habitat monitoring at Aylestone Meadows.

The Black to Green project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, had a successful and productive third year. The project is focussed on The Heart of the National Forest, an area of 10 square miles in the former coalfield zones of north-west Leicestershire, and seeks to engage with local communities and promote a greater understanding of the natural heritage of the restored post-industrial sites in the area.

The project delivered a wide range of engagement activities, including community bat and hedgehog surveys. The Heart of the Forest Wildlife Recorders Group took real shape during the year, with around 20 enthusiastic volunteers meeting monthly and discovering some real wildlife hot-spots in the area, feeding back their valuable findings to local landowners. As a result of all of the volunteer wildlife recording effort, habitat management advice reports were completed for 12 sites in this unique corner of Leicestershire. Meetings were arranged with the six landowners concerned, including the Forestry Commission, Leicestershire County Council and Woodland Trust, to explore recommendations for each site.

Local Wildlife Sites and Regionally Important Geological Sites

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are important places for wildlife but are not protected by law. A healthy network of LWS is crucial in providing more, bigger, better and joined-up areas of wildlife value. Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) are non-statutory places of geological importance that also offer opportunities for educational use and scientific study.

The Trust continued a programme of resurveying existing LWS, with a focus on priority Living Landscape areas, particularly the Charnwood Forest and Soar & Wreake floodplain. Eleven such surveys were undertaken, together with five visits to LWS landowners offering land management advice to improve the sites for wildlife.

Advocacy and influence

A whole range of policies and decisions can affect our wildlife and wild places. With ever-increasing agricultural, housing and other development pressures in Leicestershire and Rutland, it is crucial that there is an effective voice for wildlife at a local, county and regional level.

During the year the Trust responded to a variety of important consultations including HS2, Leicester City Local Plan, Leicester City Council Tree Strategy, Leicestershire County Council Environment Strategy and Minerals Local Plan and the Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan.

Comments were provided on significant planning applications, but with only limited resources, the Trust has to prioritise the significant number of enquiries about planning applications that it can respond to.

Trust staff continued advisory work with two farms as part of the Jordans Farm Partnership Wildlife Standard, compiling Landscape and Nature Conservation Plans to protect and enhance wildlife and deliver sustainable farming across the whole farm.

Surveys and recording

Accurate habitat and species data are vital to inform conservation management policies, practices and procedures, and help protect and enhance biodiversity.

A range of biological recording was carried out on Trust nature reserves and other sites. A particular focus during the year was bat monitoring, involving bat walks and surveys, checking bat boxes on nine Trust reserves, roost counts and trapping.

At the Holwell nature reserves, Trust staff worked with the Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group over two evenings and caught 368 bats of six different species.

At Rutland Water, 57 bats of eight different species were caught in various woodlands. Thirteen bat species occur in Leicestershire and Rutland, so this indicates the importance of these two sites for bats. Further work on a national *Nathusius'* bat monitoring project was also undertaken at Rutland Water, which aims to see how far and where this species migrate.

The Trust commissioned a spider survey by a professional entomologist at Charnwood Lodge National Nature Reserve to update historical surveys that indicate this site to be one of the most important for arachnids in Leicestershire. A total of 135 species of spider were recorded, which represents about 80% of species recorded historically on the reserve.

An extensive programme of bird ringing at Rutland Water Nature Reserve included:

■ Two Constant Effort Sites (CES) ■ Monthly Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBs) ■ Breeding Bird Surveys at 12 sites ■ Sand martin banks, cormorant, ducks, osprey, spring migration, nest boxes and generalised ringing

Volunteers provided crucial help with data input and, at the end of the year, the Trust's Recorder database held in excess of 622,500 species records, helping to inform management plans for the Trust's nature reserves.

The Trust organised a further successful and informative Recorders' Conference in February 2018, attended by around 100 people, and supported the publication of the Leicestershire and Rutland Recorder (vol 14).



Support was provided to national Wildlife Trust initiatives and campaigns including 30 Days Wild (above), National Marine Week and Wild About Gardens. (Rock Kitchen Harris)

Inspiring people to take action for wildlife

Encourage people to engage with nature through volunteering

Volunteering provides intrinsic benefits through health and well-being, and also enables the Trust to achieve more for nature conservation.

The Trust is hugely grateful for the hard work, commitment and dedication of all our volunteers, who give so much vital support by undertaking a huge range of tasks across all areas of the Trust's activities and initiatives. Their skills and knowledge underpin our achievements and progress.

During the year, the Trust's roving conservation volunteer group completed 151 task days of practical management work

across the Trust's nature reserves, amounting to over 7,089 volunteer hours. Major volunteer effort went into erecting new livestock fencing at Lea Meadows, often in poor weather, to protect the banks and water quality of the River Lin that runs through the reserve.

The volunteer team at Rutland Water now numbers nearly 650 and provided operational support in all areas of the day-to-day management of the nature reserve, including habitat management, wildlife recording, running of the two visitor centres, the Rutland Osprey Project, and events and activities.

Birdfair is a major undertaking and a record number of volunteers were instrumental to its success; helping with the site set-up, ensuring all aspects of the event ran smoothly, and then assisting with take-down and site clearance.





Volunteers also provided valuable assistance in many other areas including:

- Regular practical conservation work parties on specific nature reserves, such as Charnwood Lodge, Cloud Wood, Dimminsdale, Holwell, Kelham Bridge and Ketton Quarry.
- Checking on the welfare of our livestock.
- Wildlife surveys, recording and data entry.
- Administrative support at the Trust's central office.

A further nine long-term placements participated in our Volunteer Trainee Reserve Officer scheme over the year, acquiring the skills and experience needed to work in the nature conservation sector while at the same time providing a valuable contribution to the Trust's work.

The Trust's seven Local Groups – Charnwood, Great Bowden, Humberstone, Oadby & Wigston, Melton Mowbray, North West and Rutland – were active throughout the year providing an important community presence with popular programmes of talks, walks and various fund-raising activities.

Event and activities for all ages and background

Connecting people with nature is essential to safeguarding it. Delivering a wide range of interesting and imaginative events and activities enables people of all ages and backgrounds to experience and enjoy the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland at first hand, and gain a greater appreciation and understanding of nature.

A wide range of events and activities was organised throughout the year – from badger watches and butterfly identification to wild walks and willow weaving – giving people of all ages and backgrounds a chance to connect with and enjoy nature.

Popular Wild Play activities for children and young people were run in the school holidays at Abbey Park, Belgrave Hall and Gardens, Burbage Common, Knighton Park, and Spinney Hill Park.

Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve, including sand martin bank. (LRWT)



Education and Outreach

The Trust believes that it is vital to provide opportunities for people to learn about the natural world and the need to safeguard its future. We have a responsibility to educate the next generation so that they, in turn, will play a crucial role as future guardians of our natural heritage.

Forest School – is the main focus for the Trust's Outreach Education Programme, helping children to develop their confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning entirely outdoors. Funding from Players of People's Postcode Lottery enabled further development of our Wild Forest School project giving children the chance to explore outdoors and experience the natural world through a range of different Forest School activities in a safe environment. The project worked with eight groups of children from six Leicester primary schools, ran four Wild Tots pre-school groups, delivered sessions with four different groups of home-educated children, and provided six Wild Play sessions during school holidays.

Wild About Learning – a curriculum-linked teacher's pack – was designed and distributed to support and encourage busy teachers to take their lessons outdoors. The pack consists of carefully designed two-hour numeracy and literacy lesson plans for Years 1–6, plus links to other packs and resources. A successful training event was held, attended by 21 teachers from 17 Leicester city primary schools, who gave positive feedback that it had inspired them to use the outdoors for learning more frequently.

The Trust's Grow Wild gardeners – specialists in making the most of outdoor spaces for both people and wildlife – completed 14 projects creating sensory gardens, barefoot trails, Forest School and wildlife areas in local primary schools. A fine example is the All Weather Garden at Mellor Primary School, designed to be used and enjoyed year round in every weather! Key features include self-watering beds, an area containing drought tolerant plants, accessible paths, Forest School seating circle, minibeast trail and an outdoor classroom

Wild Forest School gives children the chance to explore outdoors. (LRWT)
The mindfulness garden at Mayflower Primary School created by the Trust's Grow Wild gardening team. (Martha Rose/LRWT)





with a green roof, bamboo guttering and a rain chain that drains water into a pond and bog garden.

Our Wild Skills group for young people continued to meet monthly at Rutland Water Nature Reserve and undertook a range of tasks, including bat box construction, hay making, building a bird watching screen and dead hedge, and weaving a willow fence.

The Wild Horizons group, for 18 – 30 year-olds with a keen interest in the natural world or who are embarking on a career in wildlife conservation, met regularly through the year and enjoyed a programme of tailored activities, including species reintroductions workshop, wildlife gardening and a session on CV and interview skills.

The Wild Skills and Wild Horizons groups got together with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's Keeping It Wild group for a Wild Weekend of activities, including a focus group on youth engagement in wildlife conservation, building duck traps for bird ringing, bat box monitoring and checking, meadow management and a bird ringing demonstration.

Wildlife Watch

Wildlife Watch, the Trust's junior club, provides valuable opportunities for children and young people to explore and discover local wildlife and get involved in fun and interesting projects.

The Trust's four Wildlife Watch groups had another full and active year, organising imaginative monthly activity sessions enabling youngsters to discover and enjoy local wildlife. A new Heart of the Forest Wildlife Watch group was formed during the year, meeting at Hicks Lodge near Moira.

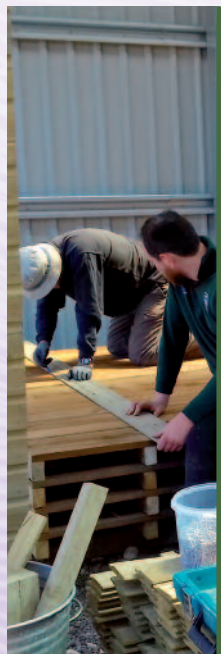
Wildlife Watch Family Events run during the year had an Up Close theme, focussing on mammals, fungi and ospreys, and were enjoyed by all ages.



The Wild Weekend over-18s tackled a morning of meadow management at Rutland Water Nature Reserve. (LRWT)

Wildlife Watch families got Up Close with Fungi on an event at Charmwood Lodge National Nature Reserve. (LRWT)

Wildlife presenter and adventurer Steve Backshall gets the party going at Birdfair 2017. (Eric Renno)
Supervised volunteers started building the new Lapwing Hide in the Volunteer Training Centre workshop. (LRWT)



Birdfair

The Birdfair is the biggest event of its kind in the world and provides an important showcase for birdwatching and wildlife organisations plus associated commercial enterprises, as well as raising vital funds for global nature conservation programmes.

The 29th annual Birdfair at Rutland Water Nature Reserve in August 2017, organised jointly by the Trust with the RSPB, was another great success.

The event attracted a record attendance of 24,466 visitors over the three days. They enjoyed interacting with a wide range of 395 exhibitors from 70 countries. A full programme of events and lectures proved popular, with 10,076 people attending 27 events in the main marquee supported by well-known wildlife personalities, and 188 lectures and talks attracting a total audience of 16,216. A sum of £333,468 was raised to support the BirdLife International project *Saving Paradise in the Pacific*.

Volunteer Training Centre

The Trust's Volunteer Training Centre offers an exciting opportunity to deliver an effective hub for practical nature conservation and recording at Rutland Water, and other nature reserves in Leicestershire and Rutland.

The Volunteer Training Centre was used well throughout the year, with the carefully-designed facilities enabling volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to get the most out of their experience. A wide range of volunteering opportunities was provided, complemented by a programme of volunteer support and training, with workshops in practical nature conservation skills plus wildlife identification, monitoring and recording.

Ongoing community outreach included working with Men in Sheds and Arnold Lodge mental health unit. Taster days were organised for new volunteers and bespoke activities provided for volunteers with specific needs. A variety of corporate groups also visited for guided walks and practical activities such as dry-stone walling.



Developing and broadening the Trust's support base

Members are the lifeblood of the Trust, contributing in many different ways – providing income, giving volunteer help, offering moral support and exercising influence. A committed and engaged membership that is representative of the local community is vital to the success of the Trust.

Membership dropped slightly to 15,742 at the end of the year (compared to 15,854 at 31 March 2017). Without our members, the Trust would not exist – the essential support they provide and the vital financial resources they contribute is greatly appreciated.

Rutland Osprey Project

The Rutland Osprey Project, a partnership between the Trust and Anglian Water, has successfully established a breeding colony of ospreys in Rutland. The osprey is a charismatic species and has generated a huge amount of public interest and visitors, allowing the project to engage with a significant range of people and offering valuable opportunities to broaden knowledge and understanding of ospreys and the natural world, thus helping to foster care and respect for our environment.

Spring and summer 2017 was a fantastic season for the Rutland Osprey Project: 23 adult ospreys returned to the area and a record eight pairs of breeding birds raised 16 chicks, bringing the total to 133 ospreys fledged from nests in the Rutland Water area since 2001.

The project staff and volunteer team welcomed over 26,000 people to the Lyndon Visitor Centre, facilitated visiting groups, gave external talks to a wide range of organisations and engaged with 3,250 children from 36 local schools. They also ran a full programme of events and activities, including 18 Osprey and Wildlife Cruises on board the Rutland Belle, dawn chorus walk, bird ringing demonstration and a family fun day.



Enjoyable, informative and safe nature reserves

The Trust's nature reserves are our most precious resource and also our showcase. The opportunities to maximise their value for both people and wildlife should be fully explored.

Trust staff and volunteer teams worked constantly throughout the year to maintain paths, trails, fences, gates, interpretation boards and viewing areas. At Rutland Water Nature Reserve, the large Lapwing Hide overlooking the main reservoir was replaced. Extensive improvements were made to footpaths and tracks at Cossington Meadows.



The Manton Bay osprey family. Taken from the nest camera that feeds to high definition footage to the Rutland Osprey Project's website www.ospreys.org.uk
The new-build Lapwing Hide at Rutland Water Nature Reserve.
(Joe Davis/LRWT)

Supporting the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

The Trust relies on the support and loyalty of our members; the dedicated work of local groups that provide guided walks, lectures and talks, fundraising and social events throughout the year; Wildlife

Watch groups that organise activities for our junior members; and more than 700 volunteers who are involved in virtually every aspect of the Trust's work. We are immensely grateful to them all.

The Trust is especially grateful for the generosity of supporters who remember the Trust in their Wills, and particularly in the last year the late Florence Barker, Dennis Cox, Joan Hems, Ann Lane, Joan Mann, Joan Meakin and Nola Thurlow. The Trust is also grateful to have received a number of donations from friends and family in memory of loved ones. Legacies and In Memoriam donations make a tremendous difference to the amount of conservation work the Trust is able to achieve.

The Trust gratefully acknowledges all those who have given their support over 2017/18, including a range of businesses and organisations.

Companies and grant-making trusts

Aggregate Industries
Anglian Water plc
Britvic plc
Cambridge Community Foundation
East Midlands Airport
Hanson Cement
Headland Amenity Products
Lafarge Aggregates
Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation
Martin Lawrence Memorial Trust
Mather Jamie
Melton Building Society
National Forest Company
NRS Healthcare
Peter De Haan Charitable Trust
People's Postcode Lottery
Ponds by Michael Wheat
Rutland Trust
Samworth Foundation
Severn Trent Water
TMC Distribution
Vine House Farm Bird Foods

Local authorities and statutory bodies

Blaby District Council
Braunstone Town Council
Charnwood Borough Council
DEFRA
The Environment Agency
The Forestry Commission
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Leicester City Council
Leicestershire County Council
Melton Borough Council
Natural England
North West Leicestershire District Council
Oadby & Wigston Borough Council
Rotary Club of Market Harborough
Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray & Belvoir
Rutland County Council

Grant schemes

Heritage Lottery Fund

Other organisations

The Conservation Volunteers
East Midlands Wildlife Trusts
Friends of Charnwood Forest

The National Trust
 Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society
 Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts
 Rutland Natural History Society
 RSPB
 Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
 The Welland Rivers Trust
 The Woodland Trust

Birdfair sponsors

Main sponsors

in focus

Viking Optical Ltd

Associate sponsors

Anglian Water
 BBC Wildlife Magazine
 Bushnell
 Leica Sport Optics
 Nikon
 Park Cameras
 Swarovski Optik

Australia's Northern Territory
 Birdwatch magazine
 Kowa
 Naturetrek
 Panasonic
 Simon King Wildlife
 Zeiss

Who's who

Council

Chairman

Honorary Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

Trustees

Andrew Cotton
 Maggie Morland
 Ann Tomlinson
 Bob Bearne
 Anthony Biddle
 John Bleby
 Tony Clarke
 Linda Jones
 Stuart Love
 Andrew Moffat
 Ray Morris
 Helen Nott
 Ian Selmes
 Peter Williams

Members of staff

at the Leicester office

Director

Senior Conservation Officers

Conservation Officers

Simon Bentley
 Claire Install
 Neil Pilcher
 John Bristow
 Nathalie Cossa
 Ben Devine
 Uta Hamzaoui
 Chris Hill
 Andy Lear
 Martha Rose
 Corinne Clark
 Beverley Heath
 Georgina Boonham
 Jeein Hong
 Matthew Billings
 Julie Burnside
 Harriet Hickin

Senior Education Officer

Education Officer

Communications Officer

Finance & Support Officer

Finance Assistant

Membership Officer

Membership Assistant

Supporter Development Officer

at Rutland Water Nature Reserve

Reserve Manager

Senior Reserve Officer

Senior Projects Officer

Reserve Officers

Mat Cottam
 Joe Davis
 Rebecca Pitman
 Lloyd Park
 Frances Payne
 Paul Trevor
 Andy Neilson
 Julia Fisher-Robins
 Sarah Box
 Holly Hucknall
 Sarah Proud
 Tim Appleton MBE
 Carole Allen

Assistant Reserve Officers

Administrator

Information & Retail Assistant

Community Engagement Officer

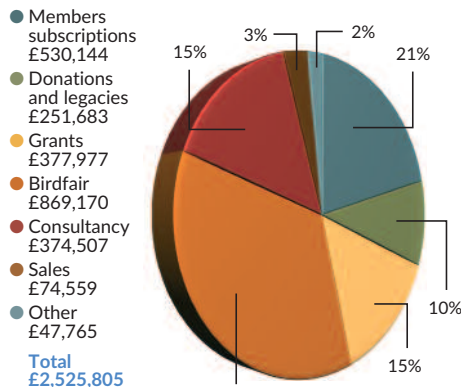
Events & Volunteer Co-ordinator

Birdfair

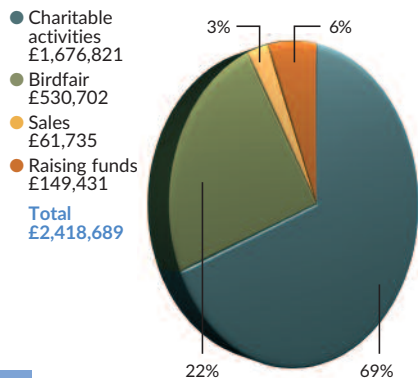
Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited

Financial Review and Results for the Year

Where our income came from



How it was spent



The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st March 2018 and the Balance Sheet at that date are a summary of information extracted from the Trust's financial statements for the year comprising the 12 months ended 31st March 2018, which include the financial statements of the subsidiary company, Leicestershire Wildlife (Sales) Limited.

The consolidated SOFA shows a net movement in funds for the year of £112,319 surplus (2017: £75,732) and total charity funds of £4,827,894 (2017: £4,715,575). The activities of the subsidiary company contributed profits for the year of £28,969 (2017: £23,734) which were transferred to the Trust under Gift Aid, as well as raising £338,468 (2016: £356,226) through Birdfair. Of this, £333,468 was donated to Birdlife International, and a further donation of £5,000 was made to the Birdfair/RSPB Research Fund for Endangered Birds.

Operational results are in line with budget, with membership income holding its own in a still-difficult economic situation for charities. Legacy income increased, compared to the previous year, but donations in general were much reduced, leading to an overall fall in total income.

The charts reflect the Trust's different income sources and the ways in which that income is spent, indicating the enormous amount of work carried out by the Trust during the year in fulfilling its charitable objects.

The Trust's legal obligation to meet its share of the deficit on the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme continues to have a significant effect on the Balance Sheet. However, unlike the previous year, there has been no major additional charge to Expenditure on Charitable Activities in the SOFA, as no further formal revaluation of the Scheme's

assets has taken place in the period. Nevertheless, changing actuarial valuations will continue to have impact over coming years, putting a continued strain on the Trust's net asset position.

Growth in unrestricted funds is essential to counteract this effect, and the Trust is working on developing new strategies to help increase unrestricted income. It will take some time to rebuild the accumulated reserves needed for the Trust to be able to expand its important work for wildlife and wild places. However, during the year, the Trust has taken important first steps in this process, aimed at broadening and deepening support for the Trust across the whole community. This work will be developed further over the coming financial year.

The auditor issued an unqualified report on the full annual financial statements, and their statement under section 496 of the Companies Act 2006 regarding the consistency of those financial statements with the Annual Report of the Council (incorporating the strategic report) was also unqualified. The Annual Report of the Council (incorporating the Strategic Report), summarised accounts, and supplementary material presented here are only a part of the full Annual Report and financial statements of the Trust. Copies of these, and those of the subsidiary company, can be obtained from the Trust office at The Old Mill, 9 Soar Lane, Leicester, LE3 5DE.

The financial statements of the Trust were approved by the Trust Council on 1st October 2018, and a copy of these financial statements has been filed with the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission.

Ann Tomlinson MA FCA
Hon Treasurer

Statement Of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st March 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Income		
Members subscriptions including Gift Aid	530,144	520,507
Donations and legacies	251,683	325,177
Grants	377,977	437,565
Birdfair	869,170	834,220
Rent receivable	33,179	33,285
Shop sales	74,559	73,874
Consultancy fees	374,507	395,092
Investment income and interest	7,730	8,221
Livestock	6,856	2,533
Net insurance proceeds	-	9,535
Total income	2,525,805	2,640,009
Expenditure		
Raising funds	149,431	169,979
Expenditure relating to sales	61,735	62,225
Expenditure on Birdfair	530,702	477,994
Charitable activities	1,676,821	1,944,573
Total expenditure	2,418,689	2,654,771
Net (losses)/gains from investments	(1,637)	109,044
Net income	105,479	94,282
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of livestock	6,840	(18,550)
Net movement in funds	112,319	75,732

Balance Sheet

as at 31st March 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	1,510,646	1,514,184
Heritage assets	1,932,586	1,914,586
Investments	729,210	724,397
	4,172,442	4,153,167
Current assets		
Stocks	21,068	20,479
Debtors	419,951	548,031
Cash at bank and in hand	1,371,316	1,138,682
	1,812,335	1,707,192
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(702,862)	(657,692)
Net current assets	1,109,473	1,049,500
Total assets less current liabilities	5,281,915	5,202,667
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(454,021)	(487,092)
Total net assets	4,827,894	4,715,575
The funds of the charity		
Unrestricted accumulated charitable funds	285,334	262,434
Designated funds	2,240,285	2,151,471
Restricted charitable funds	2,302,275	2,301,670
Total charity funds	4,827,894	4,715,575

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited

The 62nd Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the above meeting is to be held at

7.30pm on Wednesday 14th November 2018 at

Trinity Methodist Church, Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4LA

AGM Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Notice of the meeting
3. Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 15th November 2017
4. Report of Council 2017/18
5. The Trust Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018
6. Election of members to Council to serve for a three year term.

The following members of Council have completed their term of office but wish to stand for re-election:

Bob Bearne
Dr Ray Morris
7. The appointment of RSM UK Audit LLP as Auditors to the Trust
8. Comments from the floor

Refreshment break

Guest speaker

Venue

Trinity Methodist Church, Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4LA

Parking is available in the adjacent shoppers' car park.

For more information contact the Trust office on 0116 262 9968.

GUEST SPEAKER

Brian Eversham will be the guest speaker at this year's Annual General Meeting. Brian is Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Prior to this role he was Conservation Director. He introduced landscape-scale conservation to the Trust, helping launch



The Great Fen, and schemes in the Nene Valley, the North Chilterns and Cambridgeshire's ancient woodlands.

Brian began research on climate change impacts on British flora and fauna in the mid 1980s. Through his research interest in peat-bogs, he also spent several years documenting the changing fauna and flora of Britain since the Bronze Age. Brian is author of the *Atlas of the Dragonflies of Britain and Ireland*, editor of the *Ordnance Survey Nature Atlas*, and author of over 200 scientific papers and reports.

Brian's talk will be *Climate Change and British Wildlife*, in which he will outline how wildlife has responded to past climates, how plants and animals are being affected by changes now, and how climate interacts with other threats to local wildlife. Brian will consider the 'winners' and 'losers' in the face of climate warming, and will explain how we should respond to the threats, and what the Wildlife Trusts are doing already.