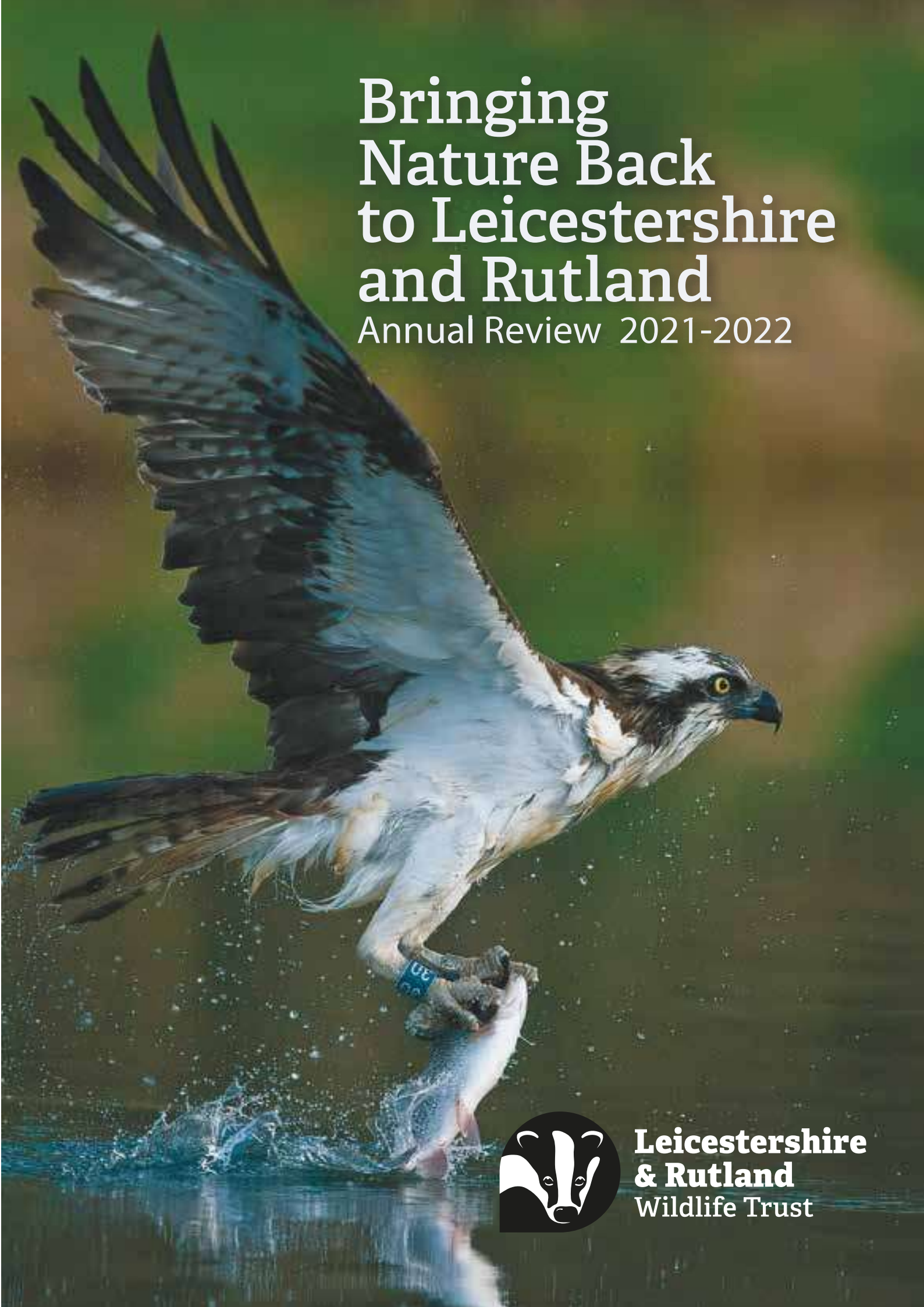


Bringing Nature Back to Leicestershire and Rutland

Annual Review 2021-2022



**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
Wildlife Trust



This Annual Review describes our achievements during the financial year 2021 – 2022 as we worked towards our strategic objectives of *Safeguarding wildlife and wild places* and *Inspiring people*.

The impact of COVID-19 and its restrictions continued to cast a long shadow over our activities this year. As with many organisations, repeated waves of infection meant disruption to our operations, and consequently less ability at times to support volunteer activity.

However, our staff and volunteers absolutely rose to the occasion showing tremendous resilience and commitment which has allowed us to bring Trust operations back to normality, catching up on work that had been put on hold. You will read in this Annual Review about the enormous amount of activity this year, whether in conservation on nature reserves and the wider countryside, or in engaging with people and communities.

Like many organisations, our finances are still seeing the impact of COVID-19. Before the pandemic we had already started to invest in resources to help grow income streams and allow us to develop the Trust further. However, the disruption of COVID-19 meant that these new income streams have been slow to start.

That investment to enable us to grow is absolutely crucial to delivering a great future for our wildlife. We have continued to support this commitment this year, and will continue to do so to ensure the Trust can deliver against its ambitions, although recognising that we may see income lagging behind for a time.

We are making this investment because we have a vital job to do. As we all know, the twin emergencies of climate and nature, accompanied by the loss and endangerment of so many species, is an enormous threat to our planet. During the year, staff and trustees worked hard on the development of a new **Strategy to 2030: Bringing Nature Back**, which was formally adopted by the Trustee Council at the end of the period covered by this Review. This Strategy aligns to that produced nationally by The Wildlife Trusts movement, and will form an important part of nature's recovery. It will shape the direction and emphasis of our work for the coming years.

We remain immensely grateful for the support which you give us. Our membership is the backbone of our organisation, our volunteer teams are crucial to the delivery of our work, and supporters of all kinds provide vital resource and assistance. We truly could not do our work for the wildlife and wild places of Leicestershire and Rutland without you, and it is such important work.

**Mat
Carter**
Chief Executive
Officer

**Ann
Tomlinson**
Chair, Council of
Trustees

We are grateful to be supported by **17,910 members**, people across Leicestershire and Rutland who care about wildlife in the two counties and want to protect it.

Our **35 nature reserves** cover more than **1,300 hectares**; our **six Living Landscapes** include wetlands, woodlands, meadows and heaths.

Our **41 staff** and over **540 volunteers** work together for nature alongside communities in the city of Leicester, and in towns and villages across Leicestershire and Rutland.

Seven Local Groups offer guided walks, lectures and talks, fundraise for us and inspire local people to take action for wildlife.

At the end of March 2022, after intensive work by staff and trustees throughout 2021, we adopted our new **Strategy to 2030: Bringing Nature Back**.

The Strategy is our response to the nature and climate emergency. It recognises that the threats of climate breakdown and ecological collapse are the most important issues of our time.

Our Goals:

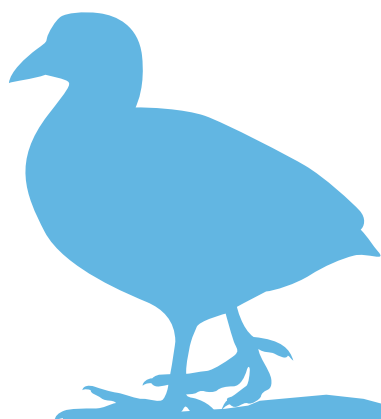
- Nature in Leicestershire and Rutland is in recovery with abundant, diverse wildlife and natural processes creating wilder land where people and nature thrive.
- People in Leicestershire and Rutland are taking action for nature and the climate, resulting in better decision-making for the environment at both the local level and national level.
- Nature in Leicestershire and Rutland is playing a central and valued role in helping to address local and global problems.

This important Strategy will shape the work of the Trust over the coming years.

lrwt.org.uk/strategy

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is uniquely positioned to inspire and lead the positive ecological change that will be needed across our two counties. It is local, but also part of a strong, cohesive movement of **46 Wildlife Trusts** across the country.

Together The Wildlife Trusts have over **850,000 members**, manage more than **2,300 nature reserves**, run thousands of projects and events, and combine to ensure that local and national policies work for wildlife and wild places. Our new Strategy plays a key part in this national movement at the local level. We are all working towards nature's recovery.



It's all thanks to you...



Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is the leading wildlife conservation charity working to protect and enhance the wildlife and wild places of Leicestershire and Rutland.

Over the last six decades, we have been standing up for wild places, saving endangered species and bringing people closer to nature. We believe Leicestershire and Rutland should be rich in wildlife for the benefit of everyone.

Your essential support is what makes that possible. If you help by being a Trust member, giving your time as a volunteer, making a donation, joining one of our campaigns, or remembering the Trust in your Will, your contribution is making a real difference for your local wildlife.

Leave a gift in your Will

Including a gift in your Will to Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust helps us protect the threatened species and fragile places we all love. A charity legacy can give you peace of mind that your assets are being used for the causes you care about.

Find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, go to lrwt.org.uk/legacy or contact **Josephine Taylor 0116 262 9968**
jtaylor@lrwt.org.uk





Gifts in Wills and In Memoriam

We are especially grateful to **James Banfield, Barbara Kay Pochin, Valerie Gates, Andrea Susan Tebbutt, Norman Alan Hall, Gordon Howkins, Hilda Maud Kingston and Sheila Margaret Beckingham** who remembered LRWT in their Wills. We are also grateful to friends and family who leave donations in memory of loved ones. Legacies and **In Memoriam** donations make a tremendous difference to the conservation work we can achieve.

Memberships increased significantly this year to 17,910, helped by new recruitment methods. We are very grateful for contributions via our **corporate members** scheme, with five new members, and renewal from two organisations.

Particular mention must go to our corporate supporter the Melton Building Society, who funded the production of our new Nature Reserves Guide, attended two Wild Wellbeing Days, helped with tree planting at Rutland Water, and set up a membership promotion. They have also committed to funding education programmes in 2022-23.

Birdfair has been a Trust success story for over 30 years. However, it needed to evolve into an event which had a better fit with the Trust's overall mission. In particular, Trustees were concerned that in a far riskier environment for events, post-pandemic, continuing to run Birdfair would place an unacceptable burden on the Trust which bore all the risks and received no money from the event. In this context, continuing had become difficult to justify, if the Trust was to continue to deliver successfully all its charitable obligations.

After detailed deliberation, and bearing in mind all the factors noted above, the Trustees decided in October 2021 that Birdfair would cease. This was a sad day for everyone involved, and we were particularly unhappy to have to say goodbye to our dedicated Birdfair team who had worked so hard and so successfully over many years.

The final donation of £15,005, raised during the Virtual Birdfair for Birdlife International's project 'Saving the Helmeted Hornbill', was paid in December 2021.

More information:
lrwt.org.uk/Birdfair



BIRDFAIR © ERIC RENNO

Safeguarding Wild Places

Our Nature Reserves

LAUNDE WOOD © LRWT.

443

moth species
recorded

500

trees planted

35

nature reserves



THE

QUEEN'S GREEN
CANOPY

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

A huge amount of effort from staff and volunteers goes into practical nature conservation on the Trust's 35 nature reserves to ensure they reach their full potential as wildlife havens.

One of our challenges this year has been recovering and catching up with our work following the previous year's lockdowns.

Removing scrub and rank vegetation was necessary to maintain wildlife-rich grasslands at Cribb's Meadow, Ketton Quarry and Holwell nature reserves.

We worked with graziers to manage the larger grassland reserves Merry's Meadows, Cribb's Meadow, Wymondham Rough and Coombs Meadows. Shetland cattle are now grazing our new acquisition Chase Meadow 2.

A new island for overwintering waders and wildfowl was created at Wanlip Meadows. This wetland reserve, which often floods from the River Soar in winter, is ideal for breeding waders such as Avocets.

We are delighted the ancient woodlands of Launde Park Wood and Launde Big Wood within the Leighfield Living Landscape were included in The Queen's Green Canopy to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

At Rutland Water Nature Reserve, we were able to plant 500 trees near Lyndon Visitor Centre, thanks to a generous legacy. Cutting back the vegetation on Lagoon 2 has created a more open habitat, encouraging the wildfowl for which Rutland Water is renowned, and giving our visitors and bird surveyors better views from the hides. We also mowed and took hay from lagoon banks and managed reed beds to improve habitats for over-wintering wildfowl.

Landscaping and a predator gate installed on the island at Lagoon 4 last winter resulted in 30 fledged Avocet chicks this year.

Over 400 species of moth were recorded at Rutland Water, 23 of which are new for the reserve, bringing the overall number of moth species recorded on the site to 757.

Ducks are not the only wetland birds at Rutland Water

Through the national Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), we record a significant number of wetland birds ranging from grebes to geese, egrets to herons and even the elusive Water Rail.

This year our staff and many volunteers counted 123,003 birds of 67 species. These included 2,128 Teal – the largest number in 25 years, 288 Pintail – the largest number since 2005, 41 Water Rail, and 41 Great White Egret – the highest number ever recorded on the Reserve.

However, gulls have been missing from the monthly counts because they leave their roosts at dawn. So, in January, staff and volunteers carried out the first annual winter roost count, recording more than 50,000 gulls.

Around 40,000 Black-headed Gulls were recorded, a number of international importance, and 12,500 Common Gulls were recorded, a number of national importance.

If subsequent annual counts produce similar results, wintering roosts of gulls could be added as a feature of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), to ensure they have greater protection.



BLACK-HEADED GULL © TIM SEXTON.

Safeguarding Wild Places



Living Landscapes

48

ha of grassland surveyed

251.5

volunteer hours surveying grassland comprising 37 individual fields within Charnwood Forest

850

volunteer hours of butterfly and bird surveys in the Charnwood Forest

150

volunteer hours of butterfly surveys in the Soar and Wreake Living Landscape

The latter formed a continuation of the work we have done over the past 10 years within our Charnwood Forest Living Landscape, and allowed us to add value to this project by being part of a much bigger scheme with 18 key partners and many more stakeholders.

Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme

We delivered nine online wildlife recording identification sessions with accompanying spotter sheets covering topics including insects, winter trees, spring flowers and garden bird song. These can be downloaded from lrwt.org.uk/charnwood-forest-landscape-partnership-scheme.

In addition, the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme enabled us to continue to support our existing

Key projects within our Living Landscapes were the Leighfield Forest bats project, Bardon Hill monitoring, Soar and Wreake butterfly surveys and the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme.



volunteers and welcome new team members who are carrying out long-term monitoring of butterflies and birds in the Charnwood Forest. This involves a repeated walk or transect, done weekly for butterflies and monthly for birds.

Species-rich grassland is a rare and important habitat in the Charnwood Forest. Volunteers surveyed these grasslands, which are being managed during the project in a variety of ways to improve their value as species-rich grasslands.

Volunteers and staff were trained in scything to manage grasslands. Other management, after wildflowers had set seed, included collecting and sowing seeds by hand, and using a cut-and-collect machine, as ways of improving species diversity.

Spiders of Charnwood Forest

This year our volunteers and staff successfully delivered Wildlife Recording, Spider Surveys and Grassland Surveys and Management under the 'Care for Charnwood' theme within the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Spider Surveys were completed on three key sites between April and October 2021.

The most significant species recorded was the Nationally Scarce money spider *Evansia merens*, a rare spider for Leicestershire.

Each site was surveyed on four separate occasions. A total of 123 spiders were recorded across all three sites. Three species are designated as Nationally Scarce. An additional 25 species are new to the Ulverscroft Valley Reserve, bringing the number of spider species recorded there to 143.

The purpose of the surveys was to extend the Trust's and project team's knowledge of arachnid and invertebrate species-richness within the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership area, which includes several LRWT reserves as well as private land. The results will help inform habitat management.

Spider surveys will be carried out in 2022 at more sites within Charnwood Forest, with an additional search for the Charnwood Spider, *Mastigusa macrophthalma*.

Safeguarding Wild Places

Protecting local wildlife

OSPREY RINGING AT RUTLAND © DAVID TIPLING 2020VISION.

200th

Osprey chick
fledged

Sea Dragon
discovered

The fledging of the 200th Osprey chick this season was a fitting tribute to 25 years of the Rutland Osprey Project, our partnership with Anglian Water and one of the UK's greatest conservation success stories.

In 1996 we began this project to create a self-sustaining breeding population of Ospreys in central England by translocating chicks from nests in Scotland and releasing them at Rutland Water.

A male Osprey that had arrived as a chick in 1997 returned in 2001 to breed with a female ringed in Scotland. Their single chick was the first Osprey to fledge from the Rutland Water area. We now have a self-sustaining population, with some fledged individuals breeding in other parts of England and Wales.

This year 30 Ospreys returned to Rutland and the wider landscape with 17 chicks being reared from seven nests. One pair reared two chicks in their seventh year at Manton Bay on Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

Thanks to our new web-cam on the nest, the success of this project attracted worldwide attention with almost 1 million views.

lrwt.org.uk/rutlandospreys

The discovery of an Ichthyosaur or **Sea Dragon** by our staff in January 2021 shone a spotlight onto Rutland Water Nature Reserve. The Ichthyosaur is a marine reptile that lived 180 million years ago. The find measures 10 metres from head to tail, and is thought to be the largest most complete skeleton of its kind in the UK.

This exciting discovery was filmed for the BBC-TV programme *Digging for Britain*, and the Trust featured in more than 50 stories across broadcast, online and print media. The Trust has joined with Anglian Water and Rutland County Council in a partnership which will ensure the Sea Dragon is preserved, and displayed for the future in Rutland.

Dipping beneath the waves at Rutland Water

Knowing more about the aquatic invertebrates in Rutland Water Nature Reserve is important to our work. These tiny creatures provide essential information about the health of the freshwater ecosystem.

Aquatic invertebrates break down organic matter, filter water and provide food for other insects, fish and birds, especially the over-wintering ducks for which the reserve is internationally-designated as a Ramsar site.

You can watch this presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOPbmG96hbo> to see how the Trust's volunteers and staff used the Biological Monitoring Working Party method to assess the quality of the habitat beneath the reserve's waves.

This enabled them to study the health of eight lagoons and smaller ponds by identifying freshwater invertebrates and scoring them on their varying tolerances to aquatic pollution.

Over 80% of the reserve is wetland, and through the surveys we can better understand this fragile habitat. Many new species of wetland specialist invertebrate have been discovered in the last year as a result of careful management, including five species of reed beetle new to Rutland Water and one not seen in either Leicestershire or Rutland since 1895.

Surveys also confirmed the Willow Emerald Damselfly *Chalcolestes viridis* is now breeding on the reserve, laying its eggs inside the bark of willow and alder branches that overhang water. This damselfly is a relative newcomer to the UK and this record at Rutland Water is one of the first in the Midlands.

Inspiring People

Education

181

Wild Forest sessions

79

Green
Influencers

201

children in
Wild Play

20

Osprey
Ambassadors

The hatching of the 200th chick in the **Rutland Osprey Project** attracted world-wide attention thanks to our new camera enabling sound as well as images of these magnificent birds of prey to be broadcast.

World Osprey Week (WOW) in March triggered high demand for information about ospreys to be used in school assemblies, online presentations and talks. Osprey education materials and videos were popular downloads from our website.

Throughout the osprey season more than 2,500 students aged 6 – 14 from schools across the Midlands and beyond took part in presentations 'live' in their school, via Zoom, and some came to Lyndon Visitor Centre.

This season 20 **Osprey Ambassadors** aged 9 – 16 met monthly to receive the latest information about the ospreys. They took useful resources for school assemblies and classroom projects to inspire their fellow pupils.

lrwt.org.uk/rutlandospreys/osprey-education

Twenty-four schools, youth organisations, wildlife clubs, adult groups and a group of home-educated children and parents took part in our Osprey Project presentations and programmes.

Our **Wild Forest** project supported by the People's Postcode Lottery enabled more than 170 sessions for children aged 2 – 16 to learn about the natural world on our nature reserves.

We ran **Forest School** sessions with a further seven primary schools and four nurseries. Work with two schools was made possible with funding from the Central England Co-operative, and another with funding from the Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation.

We supported a Leicester University PhD student studying the effects of plastic at Narborough Bog. Students from Nottingham Trent University took part in a wetland bird survey at Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

Helping young people create a greener future

The national Green Influencers Scheme enables young people from neighbourhoods where it is challenging for them to connect with nature to make a real difference through youth-led environmental social action.

We are among 40 host organisations within the Scheme working with youth groups, communities and schools helping them forge strong connections to the natural world and sustain that through a joint sense of responsibility.

During this year our Green Mentor set up seven groups and completed 60 sessions with 79 young people. More information can be found here: **lrwt.org.uk/green-influencers**

The ripple-effect of the Green Influencers Scheme is evident in the projects these groups created.

One used funding to make 250 native wildflower seed sowing kits, which they gave to pupils at their school. Another group created wildlife explorer kits in nature playground bags to encourage their fellow pupils to learn about the wildlife around their school.

Two groups received further funding to ensure their projects continue beyond the Green Influencers Scheme.

The Green Influencers Scheme is funded via the #iwill Fund created by the National Lottery Community Fund and the Department of Culture, Media & Sport. The Ernest Cook Trust provided match funding and awarded grants on behalf of the #iwill Fund.

Proudly supporting
youth social action



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport



Inspiring People



Volunteers & Local Groups

16,000
volunteer hours

547
volunteers

7
local members'
groups

Our volunteers are crucial to the delivery of our work, and we are very appreciative of their hard work, commitment and knowledge.

They contributed not only their time but considerable skills and expertise: conservation activities, wildlife recording, helping run visitor centres, organising Local Groups, administrative assistance, and responsibility for governance and overall management of the Trust.

Our seven **Local Groups** were very active

giving us a popular and vital community presence. Early in the year they hosted 32 online talks about local wildlife attended by 1,754 people. Later, in-person events resumed with 13 talks and walks.

Throughout the challenging time of COVID-19 our volunteers remained resilient and adaptive.

They mowed rides and coppiced shrubs in woodland within the Leighfield Forest Living Landscape, cut and spread green hay for grassland restoration at Lea Meadows, and planted 'living screens' at Cossington Meadows.

Volunteers on the **Leighfield Forest Living Landscape** project made 54 bat boxes, some of which were placed on the Allerton Estate where





Warm welcome at Lyndon Visitor Centre

Our wonderful team of staff and volunteers at the Lyndon Visitor Centre give a warm welcome to visitors explaining where they can see the Ospreys and other wildlife on the reserve, selling the very popular coffee and cakes, and inviting people to join in community events.

This year we welcomed 24,159 visitors, the most we have seen in one year since 2018. More than 8,600 people visited in the winter to see the wildfowl for which Rutland Water is internationally-renowned. The hard work of the whole team brought retail income back to healthy pre-pandemic levels, helping to support the Trust's activities.

During the year volunteers gave 2,059 hours of their time at the Lyndon Visitor Centre and 1,824 hours at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre at Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

Volunteers gave invaluable help at the 73 public events we held at Rutland Water this year.

Time in Nature, a partnership with Age UK to support people with dementia, resumed in May. More than 100 people spent time enjoying the views in the new seating area at Lyndon Visitor Centre. Our volunteers joined them in Teal hide to watch wildlife and share stories.

Sign up to volunteer with the Trust:
lrwt.org.uk/volunteer



Barbastelle bats were recorded.

The **Wider Countryside** volunteers helped with barn owl and breeding bird surveys, and hedgerow and heathland surveys. More than 262 volunteer hours were spent on butterfly surveys.

Across our reserves, the **Limestone Group Volunteers** undertook 685 hours of work. The Ketton Quarry volunteer shepherds, who help monitor the Ketton flock, contributed 260 hours. The Charnwood Lodge volunteer team gave 6,088 hours of their time.

The bird ringing group at Rutland Water Nature Reserve carried out 782 hours of patient work. 5,580 birds of 51 species were ringed during 2021. The **Rutland Osprey** volunteers monitored the birds' activities daily during the osprey season, giving 2,164 hours of their time to this rewarding task.

Inspiring People



Campaigns, engagement & advocacy

18

parish councils
received Biodiversity
Training

£115,000

raised in Meadows
Appeal

73

public events at Rutland
Water Nature Reserve

54

talks/walks given to
community groups

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our members and supporters who donated to our Meadows Appeal to purchase Chase Meadow 2.

This 1.45ha wildflower meadow brimming with butterflies and other pollinating insects is

next to Charnwood Lodge Nature Reserve lrwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/charnwood-lodge and lies within a mosaic of meadows, including a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Acquiring this meadow is fundamental to creating a nature recovery network within Charnwood Forest, enabling wildlife to spread into the wider landscape.

We raised **£5,843** through The Big Give Green Match Fund to support our 'Protect our Pollinators' campaign.

We led **guided walks** for local community groups: at Cribb's Meadow for the Rutland Natural History Society; at Holwell Reserve for the Keyham U3A; and at Launde Park Wood in partnership with Launde Abbey.

On behalf of Leicestershire County Council, we ran **Biodiversity Training** sessions with 18 parish councils to provide them with



information about on their obligations, powers and opportunities to conserve biodiversity, which is a requirement under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

We were delighted to become part of the **Greener Golf Network**, a group of golf clubs that are doing more for wildlife and the environment through sustainable management of golf courses in Leicestershire and Rutland. In September 2021 and March 2022, we took part in conferences for golf club representatives and gave advice on habitat management.

We gave talks about our work to groups including Hathern Church, Somerby Garden Society, Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, and Burbage Heritage Group. We also contributed to Rutland County Council's Climate Action Programme, and advised Blaby Church on wildflower meadow management.

Pilot Local Nature Recovery Network

We are partners in a Pilot Local Nature Recovery Network to identify which areas of Leicestershire and Rutland will be best for the protection and creation of wildlife habitats.

The partnership project involves Natural England, Leicestershire County Council, the National Forest, the Environment Agency, Leicester City Council and Charnwood Borough Council. It is funded by Natural England, Leicestershire County Council, the National Forest and Twycross Zoo.

During this year more than 40 people, representing our partner and stakeholder organisations, attended two Nature Recovery workshops.

These aimed to give stakeholders a better understanding about what a Local Nature Recovery Strategy is. They used maps of two 10km grid squares, created by a biodiversity mapping project, to consider the opportunities and conflicts for Nature Recovery.

The stakeholders discussed possible solutions to the issues raised and how Nature Recovery opportunities could be realised.



BUFF-TAILED BUMBLEBEE © CHRIS GOMERSALL/2020VISION.

Working in partnership

We recognise that we must work with a range of partners and stakeholders if we want to see 30% of land dedicated to nature by 2030. These include estate owners, golf courses, landowners, businesses, NGOs, government bodies, local authorities and funders.

Grants and trusts

Central England
Co-operative
David Cock Foundation
Grantscape / Augean
Leicestershire and Rutland
Community Foundation
National Lottery Heritage
Fund
People's Postcode Lottery
Ernest Cook Trust
The Rutland Trust

Companies

Aggregate Industries
Amazon Smile
Anglian Water
CR Civil Engineering
Hanson UK
PayPal
Redrow Homes
East Midlands
Vine House Farm

Corporate members

Bradgate Business
Support Limited
Brockleby's
Eco Ski
Edwards & Edwards
Consultancy
Melton Mowbray
Building Society
Simon The Beekeeper Ltd
Which Way Financial
Solutions

Community groups & other organisations

Admiral Nurses
Age UK
Airwick Botanica
Butterfly Conservation East
Midlands
Charnwood Forest Regional
Park Landscape Partnership
Scheme
Defra
Dementia Adventure
Environment Agency
Friends of Charnwood
Forest
Game & Wildlife
Conservation Trust
Leicestershire and Rutland
Badger Group
Leicestershire and Rutland
Bat Group
Leicestershire and Rutland
Swift Partnership
National Forest Company
Natural England
NatureSpot
Royal Society of Wildlife
Trusts
Rutland Natural History
Society
South Highfields
Neighbours
The Green Place
Trent Rivers Trust
Twycross Zoo

University of Leicester
Welland Valley Rivers Trust
WWF

Local authorities

Blaby District Council
Charnwood Borough
Council
Hinckley and Bosworth
Borough Council
Leicester City Council
Leicestershire County
Council
Rutland County Council



Our Governance

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is managed by a Council of Trustees (elected from its members) who oversee governance and strategic direction. You can find out more about them, their skills and expertise on our website.

Trustees

Chair - Tony Clarke (to August 2021)

- Anthony Biddle

(August to November 2021)

- Ann Tomlinson (from November 2021)

Vice-chair - Anthony Biddle (to August 2021)

- Vacant (August to November 2021)

- Bob Bearne (from November 2021)

Hon. Secretary - Maggie Morland

(to April 2022)

- Peter Williams (from April 2022)

Hon. Treasurer - Ann Tomlinson

(to November 2021)

- Andy Thorpe

(from November 2021

when appointed Trustee)

Trustee - John Bleby

Trustee - Andrew Cotton

(to November 2021)

Trustee - Linda Jones

(to January 2022)

Trustee - Andrew Moffat

Trustee - Ray Morris

(to November 2021)

Trustee - Helen Nott

Trustee - Silviu Petrovan

(appointed November 2021)

Trustee - Ian Selmes

(to November 2021)

Trustee - Beverley Smith

(appointed November 2021)

Trustee - Abigail Wilkin

(appointed November 2021)

Trustee - Matthew Youngs

(appointed November 2021)

Patrons

Sir David Attenborough, OM, CH, CVO, CBE, FRS

Lady Gretton DCVO, JP

Sir Lawrence Howard KVCVO, OBE

Vice Presidents

Hugh Dixon FCA (died June 2021)

Peter Ward MA, LLB

Hugh Dixon made a very significant contribution to the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust in several roles over many years. He was pivotal in the formation and early years of the Trust, and was instrumental in securing key achievements and successes. Hugh was Honorary Treasurer for over 30 years, became Chairman in the late 1990s and was a strong advocate of reserve acquisition. He was involved in securing Launde Woods, fields adjoining Wymeswold Meadows, Loughborough Big Meadow, Cossington Meadows and others. He saw the start of our involvement at Rutland Water, and chaired the Rutland Water Nature Reserve steering committee for many years.



Our Staff

CEO

Tim Graham (to November 2021)
Michael Singh
(Interim, December 2021 to April 2022)
Martin Hunt (Interim, April to August 2022)
Mat Carter (From August 2022)

Staff - 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Head of Engagement

Jamie Perry

Head of Conservation

John Clarkson

Leicester Office

Finance ICT & Office Manager

Georgina Boonham

Finance Officer

Jeein Hong

Accounts and Reporting Officer

Praveen Nair

Membership Officer

Josephine Taylor

Membership Assistant

Julie Burnside

Admin and Support Assistant

Helen Ball

Senior Engagement Officer

Harriet Girling

Communications & Engagement Assistant

Jordan Linthwaite

Human Resources Officer

Azrin Alimahomed

Senior Conservation Officers

Claire Install

Neil Pilcher

Conservation Team Leader

Joe Davis

Conservation Officers

John Bristow

Natalie Cossa

Uta Hamzaoui

Chris Hill

Andy Lear

Claire Sambridge

Reserve Officers

Andy Neilson

Trainee Reserves Officer

Helena Bolingbroke

Sophia Attwood-Clarke

Senior Education Officer

Martha Rose

Education Officers

Rachel Ibbotson

Fiona Worton

Green Mentor and Youth Assistant (Green Influencers Scheme)

Hannah Keys

Surveyor

Rob Sayer

Rutland Water Nature Reserve

Volunteer Training Centre and Events Coordinator

Amelia Woolford

Helen Fairhead

Lyndon Visitor Centre and Events Assistant

Elizabeth Smith

Lyndon Visitor Centre and Events Coordinator

Laura Brady

Species and Recording Officer

Tim Sexton

Assistant Species and Recording Officer

Luke Nelson

Reserves Officer – Woodlands

Paul Trevor

Reserve Officer, Grasslands

Frances Payne

Assistant Reserve Officer

Sarah Bedford

Trainee Reserves Officers

Emily MacAllister

Anna Leschinski

Alex Audige-Soutter

Matilda Parr

Rutland Osprey Project Education Officer

Ken Davies

Rutland Osprey Information Officer

Abi Mustard

Birdfair

Carole Allen

Nicola Brown

Sarah Marsh

Our Finances

Leicestershire And Rutland Wildlife Trust Limited Financial Report

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st March 2022 and the Balance Sheet at that date are a summary of information extracted from the Trust's financial statements for the year comprising the twelve months ended 31st March 2022, 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 £193,396 deficit (2021: £431,512 surplus) and total charity funds of £5,469,378 (2021: £5,662,774). The activities of the subsidiary company contributed a loss for the year of £9,530 (2021: loss of £21,616) which, following the decision to cease operating Birdfair, includes a loss arising from the closure of Birdfair operations of £36,401 (2021: £19,147 loss).

The financial year ended 31 March 2022 saw the Group initiate a plan to invest in new posts and costs to enhance business development in several key strategic areas to help build back after the significant impacts from the global COVID-19 pandemic. This aims, over time, to grow and diversify income streams, for instance by increasing our grant revenues, down this year by 36% as the significant COVID-19 support grants in 2020/21 were not replicated, and continuing to protect

and enhance the membership revenues which grew by 7% over the prior year despite the challenging conditions. The other significant change on income was that legacy income, which by its nature is volatile and unpredictable, was down 36%.

The retail activities and Osprey Cruises that had largely been curtailed due to COVID-19 bounced back from a small loss in 2020/21 to a £28,601 profit despite the slow start to the year as restrictions were still being eased.

Despite the overall net reduction in funds of £193,396, the consolidated Balance Sheet at the year-end continues to show the Group in a healthy asset position. In particular, cash balances remain strong and will allow the Group to continue to pay for the vital development costs over the next financial year. New and enhanced income streams to replace the financial reserves used in this way will be a high priority during the next two financial years.

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 was also unqualified. The Annual Report of the Council, summarised accounts, and supplementary material presented here are only a part of the full Annual Report and →

Our Finances (continued)

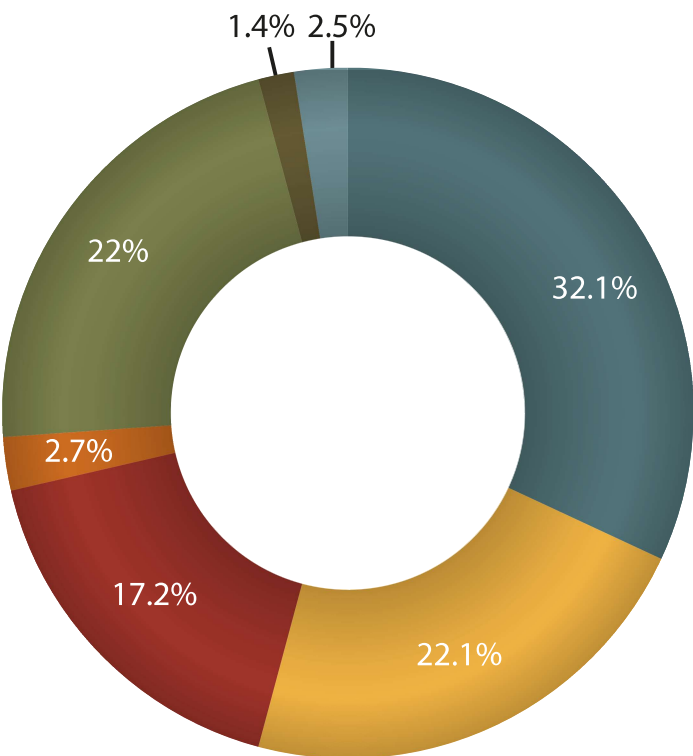
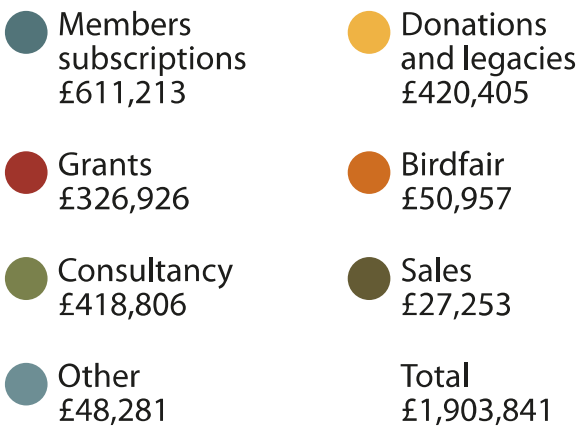
financial statements of the Trust. Copies of these, and those of the subsidiary company, can be obtained from the Trust office at The Old Mill, 9 Soar Lane, Leicester, LE3 5DE.

The financial statements of the Trust were approved by the Trust Council on

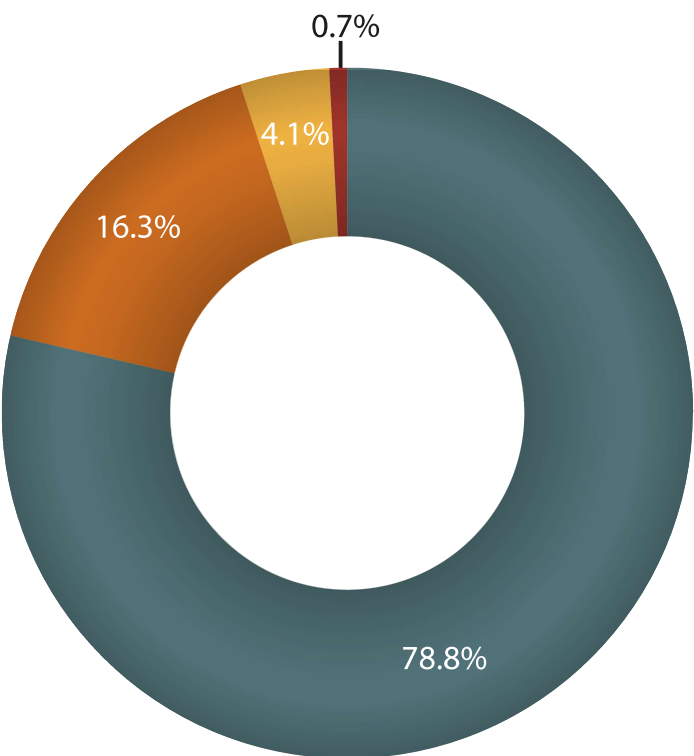
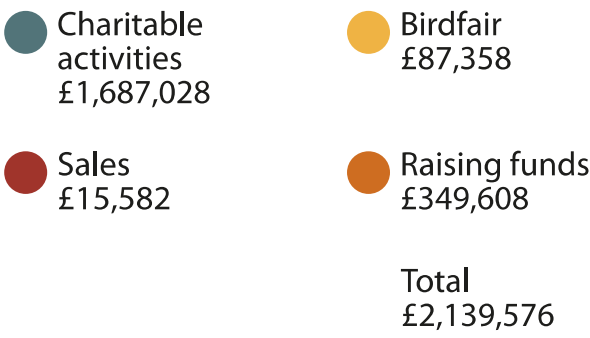
26 September 2022, and a copy of these financial statements will be filed with the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission.

Andy Thorpe ACA
Hon Treasurer

Where our income came from



How it was spent



Statement Of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st March 2022

Balance Sheet

as at 31st March 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Income		
Members subscriptions including Gift Aid	611,213	571,634
Donations and legacies	420,405	656,872
Grants	326,926	490,276
Birdfair	50,957	45,281
Rent receivable	36,251	33,679
Shop sales	27,253	6,709
Consultancy fees	418,806	287,810
Investment income and interest	4,541	5,433
Livestock and other income	7,489	1,407
Total income	1,903,841	2,099,101
Expenditure		
Raising funds	349,608	171,329
Expenditure relating to sales	15,582	2,515
Expenditure on Birdfair	87,358	110,429
Charitable activities	1,687,028	1,517,918
Taxation charge	1,732	(1,732)
Total expenditure	2,141,308	1,800,459
Net gains/(losses) from investments	2,464	118,333
Net income	(235,003)	416,975
(Losses)/gains on revaluation of fixed assets	(4,115)	3,195
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension scheme	45,722	11,342
Net movement in funds	(193,396)	431,512

	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	1,236,908	1,276,427
Heritage assets	2,279,944	2,177,811
Investments	833,364	830,848
	4,350,216	4,285,086
Current assets		
Stocks	5,492	6,732
Debtors	283,993	178,593
Cash at bank and in hand	1,211,427	1,687,666
	1,500,912	1,872,991
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(340,037)	(408,334)
Net current assets	1,160,875	1,464,657
Total assets less current liabilities	5,511,091	5,749,743
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(41,713)	0
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	0	(86,969)
Total net assets	5,469,378	5,662,774
The funds of the charity		
Unrestricted accumulated charitable fund	274,614	269,563
Designated funds	2,596,514	2,756,214
Restricted charitable funds	2,598,250	2,636,997
Total charity funds	5,469,378	5,662,774

The 66th Annual General Meeting of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

will be held online on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 7.00pm.

Please go to lrwt.org.uk/AGM to register your place.

AGM Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Notice of the meeting
- 3) Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting held online on Wednesday 17th November 2021
- 4) Report of the Council 2021-2022
- 5) The Trust Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022
- 6) Re-election of Members to Council* to serve a three-year term:
The following members of Council have completed their three-year term of office:
John Bleby
Andrew Moffat
Peter Williams

The following have expressed their wish to stand for re-election:
Andrew Moffat
Peter Williams
- 7) Appointment of PKF Smith Cooper Audit Limited as Auditors to the Trust
- 8) Questions from members
- 9) Meeting closes

*Biographies available at
lrwt.org.uk/how-we-are-run

If you would like to submit a question for our AGM, please email **info@lrwt.org.uk** by November 3rd, with AGM in the Subject line.



The meeting will be followed by a presentation given by Peter Burgess, Director of Nature Recovery at Devon Wildlife Trust.

The River Otter in Devon remains the only wild licenced beaver reintroduction in England. The five-year trial, led by Devon Wildlife Trust, was assessed as a success in 2020 and led to the landmark decision that beavers could remain and naturally spread into other catchments. The talk will introduce the crucial role beavers can play in the restoration of our rivers and wetlands and the steps DWT and partners took to bring back beavers! Finally, the presentation will focus on the lessons learnt and steps other Trusts can take to see beavers return.

Stay in touch

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Telephone 0116 262 9968

Address The Old Mill, 9 Soar Lane,
Leicester, LE3 5DE

Website lrwt.org.uk

Registered charity number 210531

Registered company number 561833

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