

**Company Registration No. 2534145 (England and Wales)  
Registered Charity No. 1000412**

**The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire  
and Northamptonshire**

**Directors' report and financial statements  
For the year ended 31 March 2017**

# The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

## Charity information

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| <b>President</b>  | Baroness Young of Old Scone  |   |
| <b>Vice Presidents</b>  | Mr Michael Allen<br>Prof David Bellamy<br>Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey, Bt.<br>Sir Hugh Duberly<br>Mr Ioan Thomas   |   |
| <b>The Council of Trustees</b>  |  |   |
| <b>Chairman of Council</b>  | Dr Derek Langslow<br>Sir Graham Fry  | (retired 8 October 2016)<br>(appointed 8 October 2016)  |
| <b>Vice Chairman</b>  | Sir Graham Fry<br>Prof William Stephens  | (until 8 October 2016)<br>(appointed 8 October 2016)  |
| <b>Honorary Treasurer</b>   | Ms Karen Silcock<br>Mr John Harrison<br><br>Mr James Fanshawe  | (retired 8 October 2016)<br>(appointed 8 October 2016 &<br>died 21 November 2016)<br>(appointed Trustee 8 October<br>2016 and Treasurer 28 November 2016)   |
| <b>Honorary Secretary</b>   | Ms Fiona Chesterton<br>Dr Jenna Bishop   | (retired 8 October 2016)<br>(appointed 8 October 2016)  |
| <b>Chairman of Conservation, Education<br/>&amp; Community Committee</b>                                  | Mr Stewart Lane<br><br>Mr Martin Baker<br>Dr Sam Brockington<br>Mr Robert Brudenell<br><br>Ms Linda Doughty<br>Dr Sharon Erzinçlioğlu<br>Mr Chris Pullen<br>Mr Paul Solon<br>Dr Ed Turner<br>Dr Matt Walpole | (retired 8 October 2016)<br>(co-opted 14 January 2017)<br>(appointed 8 October 2016<br>& resigned 14 March 2017)<br>(resigned 5 September 2016)<br>(appointed 8 October 2016)<br>(appointed 8 October 2016) |
| <b>Chief Executive and senior management<br/>personnel to whom day to day management<br/>is delegated</b> |  |   |
| <b>Chief Executive</b>  | Mr Brian Eversham  |   |
| <b>Director of Finance &amp; Administration</b>   | Mr Wynne Beaumont  |   |
| <b>Director of Marketing, Fundraising &amp;<br/>Communication</b>   | Ms Kathryn Hindley,  |   |
| <b>Director of Living Landscapes</b>  | Mr Oliver Burke  |   |

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Charity information

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| <b>Company number</b>                  | 2534145   |
| <b>Registered charity number</b>       | 1000412   |
| <b>Registered and principal office</b> | The Manor House<br>Broad Street<br>Great Cambourne<br>Cambridge<br>CB23 6DH                           |
| <b>Auditors</b>                        | Saffery Champness LLP<br>Unex House<br>Bourges Boulevard<br>Peterborough<br>Cambridgeshire<br>PE1 1NG |
| <b>Principal bankers</b>               | Barclays Bank plc<br>9 -11 St Andrews Street<br>Cambridge<br>CB2 3AA                                  |
| <b>Solicitors</b>                      | Hewitsons<br>Shakespeare House<br>42 Newmarket Road<br>Cambridge<br>CB5 8EP                           |
| <b>VAT and Tax advisor</b>             | William Lewis<br>10 Langley Way<br>Hemingford Grey<br>Cambridgeshire<br>PE28 9DB                      |

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# The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

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# **The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

## **Annual report For the year ended 31 March 2017**

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The Council have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017. The Council have adopted the provisions of 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 (effective 1 January 2015) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

The company number, charity number, names of Trustees and Executive Board, principal addresses and details of professional advisers are included in the charity information sheet at the front of these accounts.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing documents**

The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee governed by the Articles of Association as adopted by Special Resolution on 8 October 2011.

### **Election of Trustees**

Trustees are elected for a three-year term, and may be re-elected, but cannot serve as Council members for more than six years consecutively, except that Officers of Council may serve for up to six years from their appointment as an Officer. There can be no fewer than twelve Trustees and no more than eighteen. There were twelve Trustees in post as at 8 October 2016. The Board may from time to time co-opt additional members of the Board from amongst the members of the Trust up to the prescribed maximum of eighteen members. Any member appointed under this article shall retire from office at the next Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for election.

### **Trustee induction and training**

Potential Trustees are provided with a comprehensive pack before they apply for a role. New Trustees are given an opportunity to learn about the Trust and their responsibilities as Trustees through Charity Commission documents and with an introductory seminar with Honorary Officers and senior staff. Trustees are given an information folder about the Trust and are encouraged to attend meetings of both standing committees in the first year and to visit the Trust's offices and education centres as part of their induction. The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts holds open days to which Trustees are invited, where they meet staff and trustees of other Wildlife Trusts.

### **Staffing**

The staff employed by the Trust report through the Chief Executive to the Council. The average headcount during the year was 107 staff (105 for 2016) with the average number of full-time equivalents being 91 (87 for 2016). The delegation of authority to staff stipulates the levels of expenditure and contracts that can be undertaken without reference to Trustees and the lines of reporting. This was last updated and approved by Council on 21 July 2015.

# The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

## Annual report (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

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### Organisation

The Council meets quarterly and is supported by two standing committees: a Conservation, Education and Community Committee and a Resources Committee, both of which meet quarterly and are composed of Trustees and members of the Trust with particular expertise or experience, with staff in attendance.

Each Committee receives reports on relevant areas of the Trust's work. The Conservation, Education and Community Committee cover the achievement of the Trust's objectives. The provision of the wherewithal to do that is covered by the Resources Committee. Council receives recommendations from the two Committees, determines policies and concentrates on the good governance and strategic direction of the charity. The quarterly cycles of meetings begin with the Conservation, Education and Community Committee followed by the Resources Committee and finally by Council. The Committees make recommendations to Council, and critically review all recommendations regarding land acquisition and changes in staffing. Maintenance of good communication between Trustees and staff is a major part of the governance of the Trust, and executive board and other appropriate managers attend Committee and Council meetings.

### Governance and management

The Council provides strategic oversight, and approved a Five Year plan for 2015 to 2020 in 2014, which was implemented by the executive board from 1 April 2015. This report follows the structure of this plan. The Trust's executive board, comprising Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Administration, Director of Marketing, Fundraising and Communications and Director of Living Landscapes.

The Plan identifies four **growing** Living Landscape schemes (the Great Fen, the Nene Valley, the Ouse Valley, and the North Chilterns Chalk), where the Trust aims to increase significantly our conservation, education and community activity, and to increase the land area under conservation management; three Living Landscapes where we are **maintaining** our current level of activity, and focus on improving the land currently under conservation management; and two where we are **responsive** to opportunities for action, and where we will respond to potential threats and build partnerships. Further details of the prioritisation of Living Landscapes are on pages 6-8 of this report.

The structure and aims of the Five Year Plan are described at the beginning of the Strategic Report, on page 5.

The management structure for operational work combines conservation, education and community functions of the Trust under the Director of Living Landscapes and focuses community engagement on Living Landscape priorities and enhancing public support for key nature reserves.

### Related organisations

The Trust is a member of Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, ("RSWT" – a registered charity number 207238) which acts as an umbrella body carrying out lobbying and public affairs on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts and facilitates joint working. Member Trusts have the use of RSWT's logo and share the resources, best practice and special experience of other member Trusts. Membership of RSWT gives the Trust a national voice and profile, as well as a place in a network of similar organisations with shared aims and reputation in the eyes of those unfamiliar with its particular work. However, each member of the network remains entirely independent in terms of governance and charitable status. The independent Trusts and the RSWT cooperate under the banner of The Wildlife Trusts through a Memorandum of Co-operation.

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## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Annual report (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

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#### Related organisations

(Continued)

The Trust continues to support the work of the RSWT in a variety of ways. Senior staff serve on several national working groups and represent the Wildlife Trusts movement at national meetings and events. The relationship with the Society of Wildlife Artists, initiated by this Wildlife Trust, continued through the Wildlife Trusts and a third reception at the Society's annual exhibition in London was held in October 2016.

The Trust's main external agency for recruiting new members is a company incorporated as "Wildlife Fundraising (Central) Limited" with 8 Wildlife Trusts (including this Trust) as members.

#### Objectives and Activities

The Trust's charitable objects, as defined in the Articles of Association adopted on 8 October 2011, are to:

- undertake, promote and advance the creation, conservation, maintenance and protection of wildlife and its habitats for the benefit of the public;
- promote, organise, carry on and encourage study and research for the advancement of knowledge in the natural sciences, and to publish the useful results thereof and to make grants or donations for such purposes; and
- inform and involve people on matters relating to wildlife and its habitats through offering advice and sharing knowledge.

The Trust's mission is to:

- conserve local wildlife, by caring for land ourselves and with others;
- inspire others to take action for wildlife; and
- inform people, by offering advice and sharing knowledge.

These long term objects and mission have been maintained in the new Five Year Plan.

#### Thanks

Enduring and improving relationships have been, and will continue to be, important factors in the Trust's success. Without the support and co-operation of a huge number of people, we would have achieved little during the year. The support of members, corporate members, sponsors, charitable trusts, government organisations at all levels and our professional advisers has been vital, as has the remarkably dedicated work of our volunteers and staff.

Financial support has come from many quarters, but we are particularly grateful for the monies received from legacies bequeathed. The Trust also recognises the enormous value to its work of volunteers who number in excess of 1,000.

#### John Harrison

The Trustees are very sad to record the death of our Hon. Treasurer, John Harrison, on 21 November 2016, only six weeks after he had been elected to office at the AGM. John was a graduate economist and chartered accountant who had spent most of his working life as a senior partner with Deloitte. In his retirement, he had held a number of non-executive directorships in several different industries, and had worked *pro bono* as the administrator for Ely Cathedral.

John would have brought considerable financial expertise and insight to the Trust, alongside a strong commitment to the conservation of the countryside.

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Annual report (Continued)  
For the year ended 31 March 2017

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### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, *Charities and Public Benefit*. The Trust's charitable purpose is enshrined in its mission to conserve local wildlife, by caring for land ourselves and with others; to inspire others to take action for wildlife; and to inform people, by offering advice and sharing knowledge. The Trust has delivered this public benefit through 126 of its nature reserves with free public access, its education programmes aimed at schools, colleges, adult groups and the wider public, and through advice to landowners and local authorities.

## STRATEGIC REPORT

In this section of our Annual Report, the Trustees report on the Trust's:

- Achievements and Performance (below)
- Finance Review (p. 20)
- Principal Risks and Uncertainties (p. 22)
- Plans for the Future (p. 23)

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our work aims to make Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire better for wildlife by 2020 and to ensure that people here will understand and appreciate that nature matters. We work with others to create sustainable landscape-scale habitats - Living Landscapes - by restoring, recreating and reconnecting places rich in wildlife. To do better for wildlife we must focus on people too: staff and volunteers working closely together to achieve far more than either can do alone. Thus, our 2015-20 Plan comprises seven thematic strands, to shape and guide our work. These strands have been established to reflect the breadth of the Trust's work, the way it works with partners, the opportunities it provides its staff and the support it gives its members and volunteers:

- **Delivery:** we will create a Living Landscape at the heart of the local community, enhancing our nature reserves, working with others, and continuing to be evidence-led and based on sound research and monitoring;
- **Reaching out:** we will engage with people to enhance the recognition and reputation of the Trust, inspiring people about the natural world, and to learn about and take action for wildlife;
- **Partners:** we will build strong and effective partnerships that benefit wildlife, the Trust and others;
- **Working together:** our shared values will help us to work better, to be efficient and effective, and to share best practice, improving our internal communications, systems and working practices;
- **Finance:** to deliver our goals now and in the future, we will ensure the Trust is a financially viable and sustainable organisation by growing and diversifying our income;
- **People:** our staff and volunteers will excel in their role, enabling the Trust to deliver its aims. We will recognise the invaluable role of volunteers, integrating them into our work, and ensuring time for knowledge sharing and innovation;
- **Culture:** we will become the conservation organisation that people want to support and work for, operating as one organisation, clear and passionate about our vision for the future.

The direct delivery of our charitable objects falls largely under the first two strands, and the remainder define how we operate in order to maximise our impact. Some of these strands are inward-looking, but each will strengthen the Trust, improve the ways we work, and enable us to do more for wildlife conservation by rallying more people and organisations to our cause.

This section presents the results of our Delivery and Reaching Out in some detail, and provides examples of how some of the other strands are good for the Trust's organisation, and good for wildlife.

## **DELIVERY**

The Delivery strand of the Five Year Plan sets the following priorities for action:

- Prioritising Living Landscapes 2015 – 2020 (below)
- Managing and enhancing our nature reserves for wildlife and people (p. 8)
- Promoting wildlife conservation in the wider community and landscape (p. 11)
- Maintaining an evidence-led approach, underpinned by sound research and monitoring (p. 13)

An over-arching priority of *Securing the future of our local wildlife through the delivery of nature conservation at the landscape scale* is intended to be met through delivery of the above four priorities.

In addition, in 2016-17 staff have reviewed two important areas of work which are expected to enable future growth and conservation delivery:

- Partnerships involving management of land for developers (following past examples such as Cambourne and Trumpington Meadows)
- Potential for carbon storage on the Trust's land.

Short accounts of these topics are presented at the end of the Delivery section.

### **Prioritising Living Landscapes 2015-2020**

The Wildlife Trust continues to focus on nine Living Landscape schemes, classified as Growing, Maintaining, or Responsive:

| <b>Scheme name</b>                            | <b>County</b>                       |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Great Fen (Growing)                           | Cambridgeshire                      |
| Nene Valley (Growing)                         | Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire |
| North Chilterns Chalk (Growing)               | Bedfordshire                        |
| Ouse Valley (Growing)                         | Cambridgeshire                      |
| West Cambridgeshire Hundreds (Maintaining)    | Cambridgeshire                      |
| Greensand Ridge and Flit Valley (Maintaining) | Bedfordshire                        |
| John Clare Country (Maintaining)              | Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire |
| Cambridgeshire Chalk (Responsive)             | Cambridgeshire                      |
| Rockingham Forest (Responsive)                | Northamptonshire                    |

Our Living Landscapes schemes cover 140,287 hectares (approx. 346,657 acres) and include some of the most important habitats across our three counties. These schemes allow the Trust to focus on delivering nature conservation at the landscape scale, where it can have the greatest impact for wildlife, ensuring that areas of habitat are bigger, better and more joined and therefore ecologically more robust. The four Living Landscapes now classed as "Growing" schemes are where the Trust sees the biggest current opportunities and will focus most effort. Each Living Landscape scheme contains a network of Trust reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Wildlife Sites, farmland and built up areas; all of which form intrinsic parts of this complex ecological web.



***Great Fen (Growing)***

2016-2017 has been a year of consolidation as the current Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded period will end on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. An extension to the original timetable was given in order to allow the Trust to complete the final stages of the major hydrological scheme for wetland creation at New Decoy and Corney's Farm (started in 2015). HLF also approved the use of the project contingency in order to pay staff costs for the extension period and to cover unexpected costs associated with the 2015 Spitfire Excavation. Work began on an evaluation report for the whole 8 years of the HLF-funded project (The Purchase and Restoration of the Holmewood Estate 2008 - 2017), which involved the largest environmental grant HLF has ever given in England. This is a major piece of work covering all aspects of the HLF-funded project with particular emphasis on achievements, transformational aspects and legacy.

***Nene Valley (Growing)***

The Trustees approved taking on the management of Rushden Lakes, a complex of wetlands within the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area, which will include the Trust's first visitor centre. The Trust will be managing the nature reserve on behalf of The Crown Estate. The site adjoins the new Rushden Lakes retail complex which is projected to attract over five million visitors annually. The site connects together four other existing Trust nature reserves, and will be managed as a single large site called the Nene Wetlands, covering 270 hectares (667 acres) of some of the most important habitat in Northamptonshire. The project is supported by a range of partners including the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Habitat Opportunity Mapping for the Nene Valley has been undertaken as part of a wider ecosystem services opportunity mapping project, led by the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area. The Trust continued as a major partner in the Nenescape Landscape Partnership that was successful in securing first round Heritage Lottery funding to deliver a range of natural and historic heritage projects across the Nene Valley.

***North Chilterns Chalk (Growing)***

The Trust continues to work with a network of partners to further its Living Landscape Objectives within the North Chilterns, where it has been able to support the restoration of a number of important Local Wildlife Sites, as well as improve the management of its own nature reserves. We have been working with Cemex at Kensworth Quarry to improve the local conditions for the last surviving population of wild junipers.

***Ouse Valley (Growing)***

In Cambridgeshire, further enhancements have been made to habitats and visitor infrastructure at Godmanchester nature reserve following its purchase in 2015. In Bedfordshire, our Water for Wildlife project, funded by Anglian Water and the Environment Agency, launched a new "River Wardens" scheme to involve volunteers in efforts to monitor and improve the water environment.

The Trust has two staff on the national Floodplain Meadows Ambassador programme. The programme has facilitated shared knowledge of the ecology, hydrology, management and restoration of floodplains with practitioners across England. Linked to the Floodplain Meadows Ambassador programme, the Trust has continued botanical and hydrological monitoring at Wilhorn Meadow near St Ives in preparation for restoring this floodplain meadow in partnership with Huntingdonshire District Council.

***West Cambridgeshire Hundreds (Maintaining)***

Working with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) East, the Trust has run a number of landowner training events supported by the West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Facilitation Fund. These events funded by Natural England gave landowners information on improving their management practices to benefit wildlife as well as inform Countryside Stewardship applications.

## **The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

### **Annual report (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017**

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The Bourn Brook continues to be a focus of our work in controlling Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed. Teams of volunteers have been co-ordinated to tackle the balsam with very positive effects and a River Wardens scheme has been initiated.

#### ***Greensand Ridge and Flit Valley (Maintaining)***

The Greensand Country Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership bid was approved. This will provide funding for a number of projects across the Greensand Ridge and Flit Vale, including projects based at Flitwick Moor and Cooper's Hill.

Himalayan balsam and other invasive non-native species were mapped along the River Flit. The effectiveness of previous management work was evident with the result that teams were able to concentrate on removal in a number of priority areas.

#### ***John Clare Country (Maintaining)***

Within the John Clare Country & Rockingham Forest, scrub clearance work has been undertaken through the Biffa Award funded Scrub Off project at a number of sites including Kings Cliffe and Finedon Disused Railway Local Wildlife Sites, a site on the Nene Valley Railway and one of Peterborough's protected road verges, to open up areas of calcareous grassland.

#### ***Cambridgeshire Chalk (Responsive)***

Restoration work was undertaken on two chalk grassland sites (West Wratting Valley Farm Verges and Old Cambridge Road Verges) through the Gog Magogs restoration project. At Fulbourn Fen the Trust has started using a new tool, "tree-poppers", to remove scrub (including roots) from the meadow. This has been highly successful with significantly less re-growth than traditional cutting and herbicide treatment and also helps reduce our use of chemicals.

#### ***Rockingham Forest (Responsive)***

The Trust supported the Heritage Lottery Fund funded "Back from the Brink" project, specifically looking at the reintroduction of the Chequered Skipper butterfly to the Rockingham Forest.

### **Managing and enhancing our nature reserves for wildlife and people**

The Wildlife Trust has managed 126 nature reserves covering over 4,000 hectares (approx. over 9,884 acres). The Trust's estate is managed by three county-based teams with 30 staff in total, with crucial support from volunteers. The Trust's voluntary wardens and reserve volunteers play a vital role in managing reserves and welcoming visitors. Without them, our capacity to deliver work would be much diminished.

#### ***Nature reserve highlights for the year include the following:***

- As part of the Biffa Award funded "Scrub Off" project, enhancement works were carried out on five acres at Barford Wood & Meadow nature reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Seed was collected from the SSSI and spread over the less botanically rich areas of the site; topping and weed control was also funded by the project.
  - At Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows work was completed to transform two peninsulas into islands to create better habitat for breeding and wintering birds.
  - Across the Nene Wetlands sites, grazing has been introduced to areas of particular importance for wetland bird species such as Widgeon. This is being carried out by the Trust's Highland cattle, which have proved very popular with the public.
  - To compensate for reduced habitat quality on the Ouse Washes Special Area of Conservation caused by flooding, the Environment Agency has acquired land for the creation of new habitats. The first phase of restoration of this new 200 Ha wet grassland site adjacent to the Washes at Coveney has been undertaken. The land will be managed by a consortium of the RSPB, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the Wildlife Trust.
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**Annual report (Continued)  
For the year ended 31 March 2017**

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- Work at the Godmanchester nature reserve funded through Biffa Award and Wren FCC Biodiversity Action Fund, was completed with island clearance, hedge restoration, seeding of grasslands with floodplain meadow mix, willow pollarding, stock fencing, reedbed and willow coppicing completed. The Trust has made a large portion of the reserve accessible to wheelchair users through the installation of accessible radar gates and surfaced paths.
- At Pegsdon Hills, large scale infrastructure work was undertaken through a Veolia funded project. This included improving the water supply to the site and creating new grazing compartments, allowing improvements to grazing.
- At Totternhoe, the Walking Wardens scheme proved to be highly successful, with volunteers regularly engaging with the public, reporting issues on site, assisting with stock checks and carrying out checks on the fences.
- Flitwick Moor was surveyed by volunteers for bats, butterflies, bumblebees, breeding birds, water beetles and harvest.
- Removal of invasive water soldier at Felmersham Gravel Pits, funded by Natural England was undertaken and a distinct improvement in populations of other aquatic species was clear.
- The official opening of the new Trust reserve at Trumpington Meadows saw the Trust running a large public event in June 2016.
- There was a sighting of a pair of otters at Trumpington Meadows on the River Cam as well as the first record of the Red Data Book fungus, Sandy Stilt-puffball from historical Cambridgeshire.
- Implementation of our Dogs' Policy was trialled at Fulbourn Fen with the aim of minimising the impact of dogs on the wildlife of the site and grazing livestock. The trial has proved a success and has resulted in a noticeable change in behaviour amongst dog walkers. This success contrasts with our experience at Twywell Hills where the Trust has provisionally given notice to exit as the behaviour of dogs and dog walkers has made livestock grazing impossible unless the site owner is able to improve the terms on which the site is managed.

***Wildlife highlights on Trust nature reserves for the year include the following:***

- This year's surveys at Totternhoe found over 100 slow-worms. 40% of females were pregnant and there was a high proportion of juveniles. This shows a healthy breeding population that is spreading from the initial release site following translocation from the Luton Busway in 2010.
  - Volunteers at Totternhoe continued the monitoring of the man, musk and frog orchids as well as great pignut. Further surveys were undertaken to look at farmland birds, Chiltern gentian, stag beetles and rose chafer, the latter two through a Bedfordshire Natural History Society event.
  - Lapwing and Redshank took up territories at the Nene Washes.
  - Hazel dormouse records were confirmed outside of Brampton Wood, showing that the population is spreading beyond the reintroduction site. Surveys found 13 adults and 12 juveniles at Brampton and nine adults with 11 juveniles at Fermyn Woods.
  - Water beetle and bug surveys across the three counties have recorded over 9,000 specimens - with 21 Nationally Scarce and 6 IUCN Near Threatened species.
  - Drone imagery at Cherry Hinton East Pit demonstrated that grassland vegetation has returned to large areas since the Trust removed invasive dense scrub from large parts of the site.
  - Hoverfly recording at Old Sulehay has so far generated 4,977 records with 91 individual species. The data are being used to assess ride management at the site.
  - Red kites are now regularly recorded in East Cambridgeshire in the Lower Wood area.
  - Bitterns and Marsh Harrier are resident at Dogsthorpe Star Pit and at sites within the Great Fen. Bittern were also booming at Godmanchester throughout the Spring & Summer.
  - Two Great Northern Divers stayed at Grafham for most of the winter, a red necked grebe caused a stir amongst the 'twitchers' in January and there were 5 avocets in the lagoons investigating the newly created shingle spit.
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## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Annual report (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

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- Over 75% of the volunteer built bat boxes installed in the 40 year old plantation at Grafham have been used for roosting, and there was a large breeding colony in one of the boxes.
- Murmurations of 20,000+ starlings have been seen over the Godmanchester reed beds.

#### **Conservation grazing**

Grazing continues to play a key role in the Trust's management of its nature reserves. This year, over 20 nature reserves were grazed or partially grazed by the Trust's own livestock and over 40 reserves were grazed or jointly grazed by other graziers' livestock. This year, the Trust's own livestock comprised:

- up to 200 sheep in Bedfordshire in summer, reducing to 160 carried through the winter
- up to 250 sheep in Northamptonshire, reducing to 150 carried through the winter;
- 3 Red Poll cattle in Bedfordshire
- 7 Highland cattle

The Trust's own livestock is supplemented by working with over thirty graziers whose livestock help to graze Trust nature reserves.

#### **Land acquisition and rationalisation of holdings**

The Wildlife Trust seeks to acquire Heritage Assets as represented by land that:

- is already rich in wildlife; and/or
- has the potential to be readily restored to land of high quality; and/or
- enables us to buffer or connect existing nature reserves; and/or
- plays an important functional role in the landscape.

All acquisition of land must be approved in advance by Trustees. There is a presumption that any acquisitions will be compatible with the Trust's current Development Plan.

We manage such land as nature reserves in order to conserve or enhance its wildlife value and, where possible, provide opportunities for quiet recreation. Our land management policy is to:

- ensure land designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest is managed so that the features for which the site was designated and any other features of conservation value are maintained and enhanced;
- ensure any land designated as a Local Wildlife Site is managed to maintain the site's conservation interest and enhanced where possible;
- manage land so that we meet, or exceed, our legal obligations with respect to Health and Safety for staff and visitors;
- maintain our land so that as many sites as possible are open to the general public at all times.

The Trust has not purchased or otherwise acquired any additional land in this financial year. However, Trumpington Meadow was formally opened in June 2016, having come into Trust management the previous year.

We have not sold land during the financial year, although 3 sites are no longer managed by the Trust:

#### Eye Green

The Trust ceased management responsibility of the Eye Green Local Nature Reserve in Peterborough, although it will continue to support Peterborough City Council to ensure suitable future management of the reserve.

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## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Annual report (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

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#### Pingle Wood

The Trust ceased management of the Pingle Wood when the new owner decided not to renew the Trust's lease. Management of the adjacent Pingle Cutting continues as before.

#### Houghton Regis Quarry

For the past five years, the Trust has managed Houghton Regis Quarry SSSI in Bedfordshire, on behalf of the site owner, as part of a planning agreement. Unfortunately the funding agreement for this management ended in March 2017, and the Trust does not currently have responsibility for the site. We hope that the management gap is temporary and that our full involvement in this important site will resume in the near future.

### **Promoting wildlife conservation in the wider community and landscape**

The Trust believes everyone has a role to play in restoring nature. Without the active support and involvement of other organisations and individuals in managing their own land for wildlife or enabling others to do so, we will not achieve our vision for a Living Landscape. Good relations with stakeholder organisations such as local authorities, statutory agencies and the wider conservation sector are vital.

#### ***Highlights in the Trust's wider countryside work include:***

- in the final year of the Coronation Meadows project in Bedfordshire, wildflower and grass seeds from Fancott Wood and Meadows nature reserve were hand sown onto Limbury Mead grassland in Luton.
- The Trust has been supporting the Wildlife Trusts / Jordan's Cereals partnership nationally and assessed two Jordan's farms and advised on new farm management plans.
- The funded Scrub Off project has come to an end with further restoration work organised on another two sites in Cambridgeshire and two sites in Northamptonshire
- Through our Water for Wildlife work in Cambridgeshire, we have continued to monitor native wetland mammal species.
- The 5-yearly county-wide otter survey in Cambridgeshire was undertaken. Signs of mink are much reduced, and water voles are returning to many main rivers, though water voles remain more abundant on smaller watercourses and particularly in the Fens.
- Planning casework has increased in 2016/17, with many local authorities in Cambridgeshire revising their local plans. We objected to several speculative planning applications which would be damaging to wildlife. We have reviewed and commented on local plans in all districts in Cambridgeshire, as well as having to object to several large-scale housing allocations or developments in Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire.
- The Trust supported the delivery of each of the annual conferences organised by the three Local Nature Partnerships across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.
- The Trust successfully recruited around 50 Volunteer River Wardens to monitor individual stretches of river along the Ouse and its tributaries around Bedford.
- We remain a partner on the Nenescape HLF project, which has had a successful development stage. Projects include river restoration, land management and an access and zonation strategy.
- Representatives from this Trust with RSWT met Andrea Leadsom MP (at the time Secretary of State for the Environment) at Dovecote Meadows LWS to show her an example of meadow restoration and natural flood management.
- We hosted the Floodplain Meadows Partnership annual meeting with site visits to Nene Valley meadows including sites restored through the Nature Improvement Area (NIA).



## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

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- In conjunction with the Woodland Trust, 56 tree packs (2,500 trees) were distributed from the Trust's Northamptonshire office for planting by landowners in the Yardley Whittlewood Ridge.

#### **Local Wildlife Sites**

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS - also known as County Wildlife Sites) are not protected by law but do have some protection through local planning policies. The conservation of these sites is the most important conservation work we undertake beyond managing nature reserves. We survey sites, engage with owners and seek to get sites into positive management.

Local Wildlife Sites form a crucial part of our ecological network. In the 2014-15 financial year<sup>1</sup> there were 1,658 designated Local Wildlife Sites across our three counties. In 2015-16 there were 1,654, a decrease of 4. There has been a slight decrease overall across the three counties of those LWS in positive conservation management. The majority of this decline can be attributed to sites coming out of agri-environment schemes, particularly the old Woodland Grant Schemes, before the new Countryside Stewardship scheme is fully operational and because of uncertainty around environmental stewardship grants after Brexit.

#### *Local Wildlife Site Highlights for 2015-16:*

##### Bedfordshire

- 20 sites surveyed
- 14 LWS owners engaged with
- 5 brought into positive management by the Trust
- 6 brought into positive management by other partners
- 55% of sites in positive conservation management (decrease of 4% from previous year)
- Total number of Local Wildlife Sites: 392.

##### Cambridgeshire

- 35 sites surveyed
- 32 LWS owners engaged with
- 7 brought into positive management by the Trust
- 5 brought into positive management by other partners
- 62% of sites in positive conservation management (same % as previous year)
- Total number of Local Wildlife Sites: 533 (including City Wildlife Sites).

##### Northamptonshire

- 39 sites surveyed
- 15 LWS owners engaged with
- 8 brought into positive management by the Trust
- 2 brought into positive management by other partners
- 43% of sites in positive conservation management (an increase of 1% from previous year)
- Total number of Local Wildlife Sites: 729.

#### Highlights in the Trust's Local Wildlife Site work include:

- The Trust entered into its tenth year of working in partnership with Arqiva, who are corporate members of the Wildlife Trust. In 2016-17, a record number of indicator species were found including adder's tongue fern, agrimony, fairy flax, grass vetchling and common spotted orchid.

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<sup>1</sup> The measure for Local Wildlife Sites is always a year out of sync. with our Annual Report. Sites are surveyed in spring / summer of one year but the analysis of the results means that the measure for Local Wildlife Sites in positive management is not reported until the September of the following year.

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

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- The Trust organised practical habitat management work, mainly scrub clearance with some reed control, at Sundon Chalk Pit SSSI/LWS, a site is owned by St Francis Group. The work is funded by Natural England's Conservation Enhancement Scheme project.

### **Maintaining an evidence-led approach, underpinned by sound research and monitoring**

This year saw the first full year of delivery by the new Monitoring and Research Team, building on the success of the existing Ecology Groups programme and focusing on ensuring the Trust's monitoring work feeds into, and informs, the conservation management of its nature reserves and is better communicated to a wider audience.

Wildlife Trust Ecology Group volunteers have carried out monitoring of mammals, birds, plants and invertebrates, contributing over 5,700 hours in the year as part of 174 monitoring projects across 65 reserves collecting data over the long-term to detect trends and their causes, in order to inform management.

#### **Highlights include:**

- The production of the first *Local Wildlife in Depth* newsletters: four issues have now been published.
- A BioBlitz at Godmanchester nature reserve, organised in association with British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria (BIAZA) as part of their partnership with the Trust.
- Aerial surveys with the Trust's drone were completed at eleven Trust sites to support management of those sites.
- A new rapid grassland survey method was trialled which assesses the condition of grassland features for 28 compartments at 16 reserves across the three counties.
- The first Monitoring & Research Conference was held at Cambourne Village College with over 120 people attending.
- Staff training in river corridor surveys was undertaken.
- The revised programme of Ecology Group surveys was completed successfully.
- New Dormouse boxes have been constructed by volunteers; the equipment was paid for by the Forestry Commission.
- New monitoring and research pages have been created on the Trust's website.

The Trust continues to host, and support, the three Local Biological Record Centres covering each county:

- Bedfordshire Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre (BRMC)
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC)
- Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre (NBRC).

### **Land management for developers**

This Wildlife Trust has gained an excellent reputation for its work managing land on behalf of developers, which is also very good for wildlife.

The Wildlife Trusts recognise the demand for new homes, commercial development and associated infrastructure, with a population that is growing and changing in both distribution and character. However, the changes in land use to accommodate this development can pose serious risks to wildlife and the natural environment, including direct loss of habitats; loss of habitat quality from excessive or inappropriate recreational use; and impacts on natural resources, whether

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over-abstraction of water starving rivers and wetlands, loss of floodplains for water storage or too much run-off causing flooding elsewhere and declines in air quality.

We believe that well planned development that considers wildlife and nature at the earliest stages can enhance wildlife habitats and also contribute to the health and well-being of people who live and work there.

***Creating places for people & wildlife***

New development, in the right place and delivered in a considerate way, can create spaces that are rich in wildlife, benefitting the physical and mental health of those who live and work there. This approach avoids impacts on designated sites and priority habitats, uses ecological data and local expertise to design high quality places, contributes to the enhancement and restoration of ecological networks, and respects environmental limits, whether water availability, flood capacity or air quality. Through planning for green spaces at the same time as buildings and roads, it can demonstrate measurable benefits and net gains for wildlife, and provide for the long-term management of the green spaces.

***Wildlife Trust expertise***

We deploy a range of experience and knowledge in working with developers to create high quality and sustainable new developments that have inspiring and wildlife-rich places at their heart.

We **provide advice**, using our knowledge of the local environment and the priorities for biodiversity and provision of strategic green spaces to help developers assess the suitability of habitat creation and management proposals and whether they achieve a net gain in biodiversity; and to design and deliver habitat creation and management schemes.

We **work in partnership** with developers, enabling them to showcase good practice to industry peers and potential homeowners; creating sustainable communities and ensuring the long-term future of green spaces.

We **manage land within major housing, commercial or mixed developments**. At present we manage over 250 hectares of greenspaces within new developments, which provide excellent opportunities for community engagement, including:

- Programmes of events to engage existing and new communities;
- Family events and education activities to inspire the next generation;
- Involving local people in caring for their local nature reserves.

In addition to our pioneering work at Cambourne near Cambridge, current and proposed developments include those at Trumpington Meadows in Cambridge; Rushden Lakes and Lilbourne Meadows in Northamptonshire, and Houghton Regis in Bedfordshire.

**Carbon storage on Wildlife Trust land**

Human-caused climate change is one of the most severe threats to wildlife. It was one of the primary drivers for the development of landscape scale conservation in this Wildlife Trust, and for launching Living Landscapes across the Wildlife Trusts partnership. Natural and semi-natural habitats such as woodlands, wetlands, permanent grasslands and especially peatlands, are able to store much larger quantities of organic carbon than intensive agricultural land or built-up areas. So, there is potential for many aspects of the Trust's land management to offer benefits in terms of carbon storage.

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Mitigation and adaptation for climate change were also among the first aims of the Great Fen project, and are one of the four aims in its Master-plan (2010). Peatland soils such as those in the Great Fen gradually erode and decompose if the land is drained and cultivated, releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide. A study commissioned from the Open University in 2008 suggested that restoring the land of the Great Fen to wetland could avoid carbon dioxide losses of around 300,000 tons per year for about 100 years. This study had access to only approximate measures of peat depth, and did not fully consider the potentially deleterious impacts of other greenhouse gases, notably methane and nitrogen oxides.

In 2016-17, Dr Peter Bungay, a research biochemist, came to volunteer for the Trust. His background enabled him to re-visit the issues around Great Fen carbon storage. He refined the method for calculating the magnitude of present peat stores across the Great Fen, based on combining historical data for the distribution of peat thickness with estimated rates of peat loss. He also found the range of estimates of the carbon content of peat from the literature. For each of the measures, he assessed the potential variance, so that he could provide a range of probable values. He also obtained the best current estimates for methane and nitrogen oxide production in peatlands during restoration, and demonstrated that these were insignificant compared with the size of the carbon store, and therefore the figures could be used confidently.

Having obtained robust measures of the carbon storage potential of the Great Fen, we are working to attract sponsorship from businesses that wish to offset their unavoidable carbon dioxide emissions. Unlike other carbon 'offset' schemes, UK businesses would be able to visit the Great Fen, satisfy themselves that permanent carbon storage was being achieved, and enjoy the many other benefits which their investment was supporting. Based on restoration and future management costs in the Great Fen carbon storage here can be priced favourably compared with most other 'carbon offset' schemes.

## **REACHING OUT**

### **Education and Community work within Living Landscapes**

Our education and community engagement programme continues to go from strength to strength with a focus on our growing Living Landscapes. The Trust engages with local communities in a variety of ways to grow support for nature conservation and inspire people to take action for local wildlife. This includes:

- consultation, audience development and reaching out to new communities;
- family events on nature reserves and at education centres;
- working with schools: outreach, visits to nature reserves, teacher training and schools grounds advice;
- volunteering programmes;
- Wildlife Watch, the junior branch of the Wildlife Trusts;
- Wildlife Trust Local Groups;
- Wildlife Training Workshops.

The **education and community team** engaged with 16,451 people during 2016-17. This is a decrease on the 2015-16 figure, which was 19,802. The number of people involved in community activities continues to increase year on year in line with reaching out objectives (7,430 in 2013/14, 7931 in 2014/15, 8074 in 2015/16, and 8,870 in 2016/17). Participants gave some very encouraging feedback during the year:



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Community event attendee in the Great Fen:

*"We recently joined the Wildlife Trust and we are enjoying discovering the reserves. We love coming along to the events and will continue to do so."*

Teacher on school visit to the Great Fen:

*"Thank you for an interesting day out. The children all enjoyed their day and learned a great deal. It was good to see them all doing real "children activities"."*

Community event attendee in the Ouse Valley:

*"Both children and adults loved pond dipping! Such enthusiasm from both visitors and staff."*

#### **The Great Fen**

The Great Fen education and community team continue to build community support for Great Fen activities. This year saw:

- A family fun day at Holmewood Hall showcasing the heritage and wildlife of the Great Fen, and the work of the Wildlife Trust and project partners, was attended by over 200 people.
- Following the Spitfire excavation last year, a plaque was unveiled as a permanent memorial to Pilot Officer Harold Edwin Penketh, who was killed when the Spitfire crashed, at a dedication ceremony in September 2016. A ceremony led by the The Right Reverend Dr David Thomson, Bishop of Huntingdon and attended by members of Harold Penketh's family and many representatives from the local community, the armed forces and the many organizations and individuals which worked in partnership to raise the Spitfire, took place in October 2016.
- The Great Fen Local Group raised £2000 towards the training of the two Volunteer Restoration Officers. The money provided training in the use of brushcutters and chainsaws.
- The new Great Fen educational app, Great Fen Quest, went live. The App is designed to inspire children about wildlife and the Great Fen and encourage them to come out to visit the area.
- The blogsite for the Fen Friends was launched along-side the game which encourages children to engage with the Fen Friends and wider activities.
- The Great Fen Spitfire excavation DVD was launched and won best documentary at St. Neots Film Festival.
- During February half-term the Great Fen team worked with Catherine Weightman (one of the Natural England representatives on the Great Fen Steering Committee) and Mike Addis to create a giant map of the Great Fen made of Lego™. This was a public event over a week and involved over 400 local people in Lego workshops to create fenland flora and fauna to inhabit the Lego Great Fen. Project Partners Huntingdonshire District Council kindly donated the use of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park for this event which was attended by over 1000 local people visiting the map as it was created and bringing new audiences for the Great Fen. The Trust raised £3,272 during the event, recruited 13 new members and the event featured on Look East, ITV News, Radio Cambs and Cambridge TV. The trust is very grateful to Catherine and Mike who made it all possible by supplying the Lego and the building skills.

#### **Nene Valley**

- In the **Nene Valley**, the focus has been on development of new opportunities for the Nene Wetlands from the Rushden Lakes visitor centre which is due to open its doors in July 2017.
- The Trust was awarded £662,800 by the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver conservation and education activities on the Nene Wetlands as part of the 'Into the Valley' project over three years.
- The Trust promoted and delivered 5 events as part of the Nene Valley Festival, including a very popular guided bat walk at Summer Leys.



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- A Community Engagement Plan was produced for the River Nene city wildlife project, a partnership in Peterborough to develop the Peterborough city section of the Nene as a better managed, appreciated and understood resource to a broader, more diverse, audience.

#### **North Chilterns Chalk**

- At Blows Downs, a visitor survey was carried out, repeating a survey previously conducted in 2007, before the Guided Busway was in place. An estimate of over 115,000 visits per year was calculated, up from just under 66,000 in 2007. The survey has provided information that will be useful for the management of visitors on site; including suggesting new ways of engaging with visitors (45% of people surveyed expressed an interest in the history and archaeology of the site).
- Three children's Explorer Backpack Days were held on Trust reserves.
- Events were delivered as part of Wild About Gardens week in partnership with the Dunstable Travel Hub and Sustrans.
- The winners of a photo-competition to find the nation's most bat-friendly plant displays were announced: the competition ran as part of Wild About Gardens Week (24-30 October) organised by the Royal Horticultural Society, The Wildlife Trusts and Bat Conservation Trust, and this year focussed on what gardeners can do to help bats. The school category winner was Southill Lower School Garden Club in Bedfordshire.
- The Wildlife Trust has been supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to deliver a suite of education and community activities in the North Chilterns Chalk. Over 3 years we have engaged with approximately 5500 people, run around 100 outreach activities and 75 onsite events, and recruited and trained 30 volunteers.

#### **Ouse Valley**

- The Environmental Education Centre at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve delivered school programmes to over 1200 children in the Ouse Valley. Nearly 5,000 people took part in activities at the centre this year.
- Paxton Pits hosted seven work experience students from three local schools. A visiting form teacher of three of the students reported this was by far the most successful placement.

Son: *"My confidence has grown so much; it will definitely come in useful with my other voluntary work. I wish we had another week!"*

Mum: *"Thank you so much for this week. 'M' has had a wonderful week and it has done so much for his confidence... We've also started looking at courses such as a BTEC in Countryside Management as you have really inspired him and he loved both being outside and working with young children."*

- During the Easter holidays, 121 visitors joined in with 'What did nature ever do for us?' activities, designed to highlight ecosystem services. Families were required to earn 'Paxton Pounds' doing the jobs that nature does for us for free, in order to get the chance to pond dip.
- Spring half term family open days celebrated and encouraged families to join in with 30 Days Wild, a national campaign to encourage members of the public to get out into nature every day for the 30 days of June. The summer holiday drop-in activities surpassed any previous year with 450 people visiting during three open weeks.
- The Trust organised 2 wildlife-watching boat trips for 12 participants at Grafham Water in November run by volunteers.

#### **Education and Community work beyond Living Landscapes**

- The Go Wild! Project in Peterborough funded by the Caterpillar Foundation through Perkins was completed. The project directly engaged 5,308, and 34,746 additional people have

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benefitted from Go Wild! activities, such as improvements to interpretation, over the 3 years of the project.

- Through the Go Wild! project a community consultation for Dogsthorpe Star Pit Local Nature Reserve took place to engage more local people in looking after the site and raise awareness of the reserve and the Wildlife Trust.
- We delivered the second Peterborough Wildlife Festival in partnership with Nene Park Trust (NPT), Froglife and Buglife. Three Wildlife Trust events and the Festival Finale all featured in the programme. We had an excellent presence at the Finale event, engaging with hundreds of local people and recruiting more members and volunteers.
- Tree identification sessions were delivered for the Cambridgeshire Cubs and Scouts day at Peterborough Showground reaching over 2,000 children and adults.
- A programme of bat punts was delivered for a fifth year in partnership with Scudamores in Cambridge, along with “chalk & cheese” events to see glow worms and other wildlife at Cherry Hinton Chalk Pits
- The Trumpington rangers worked with theatre company Old Saw to host their production of puppet show “Meadow”. Using the meadows as a stage and the trees of Byron’s Pool as a backdrop, the puppeteers told the story of animals found in the meadows at the site.
- A community event, organised by the council neighbourhood team and the Trumpington Residents Association, attracted 450 people to Trumpington Meadows reserve.
- A Trumpington Meadows mobile app for iOS and Android was launched in September. The app provides visitors with an insider look at the wildlife and history of the site.
- The Many Routes to Nature project at Trumpington Meadows included the installation of a series of sculptures and interpretation panels that emphasise key wildlife and historical features of the new nature reserve. The project includes a reflection garden dedicated to the memory of Lord Lewis the late Chairman of Veolia. A celebration event was held in July with attendees from funder Veolia Environment Trust, Lord Lewis’ family and Robinson College.
- In December we invited the local community and members to “Christmas at the Manor House”. Over 100 people attended.

### **Wildlife Training Workshops**

Wildlife Training Workshops are available free to all our active volunteers. Our training programme remains among the most comprehensive and highly regarded in the country.

The programme remains fresh and innovative with new workshops added such as managing churchyards for wildlife, warbler identification, and the ecology and identification of freshwater bivalves. Several workshops were delivered by tutors new to our programme. The programme continues to receive very positive feedback overall. In the last financial year, 42 workshops were programmed with 445 places offered.

### **Membership**

Membership recruitment and retention is vital to the Trust; our strength comes from our supporters, and their views and engagement are key in guiding our activity. As at the end of March 2017 the Trust had 18,335 memberships (equivalent to 36,060 members, 2016 - 35,893, 2015 - 36,376). This represents a 1.5% increase in memberships on the previous year. Membership growth is slightly ahead of the average of 1.1% across all Wildlife Trusts. Individual membership provided £1,236,176 of unrestricted income.

Most new members are recruited through a recruitment company, Wildlife Fundraising (Central) Limited, which is wholly owned by, and employed by, the group of eight Wildlife Trusts in central England. During the year we also recruited new members through email and website campaigns and social media and through the work of our Trust promoter, Paul Wyer, who is part of the



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Supporter Engagement team. This team promotes the Trust and membership to people interested in protecting wildlife in our three counties.

Great efforts are being made to retain existing supporters, and at the year-end the annual retention rate of members was 88.7%. Members receive three editions of the Trust magazine, Local Wildlife, including Natural World, the RSWT information pages. An e-newsletter for members goes out monthly and the Trust continues to gather e-mail addresses for current, new and potential members as a priority.

#### **Wildlife Watch**

The number of Wildlife Watch groups has decreased to 18 (previously 20) this year. Attendance numbers have dropped to 1365 following a series of increases over previous years (1,694 in 2016-17, 1,576 in 2014-15, and 1,461 in 2013-14). The decline is related to the available resources.

#### **Local Groups**

There are currently 14 Local Groups and the Chief Executive and senior staff from the Trust have attended meetings or events at almost all Local Groups in the year. This year Local Groups raised £17,154 (£16,232 in 2015-16).

#### **Communications**

For the third year running, the Trust secured a Silver Award in the Chartered Institute of Public Relations Pride Awards for the Anglia, Thames and Chiltern area. This was in the Regional Campaign category and was for our communications work on the Spitfire excavation last October. The Gold Award winners were corporate partners, Athene Communications.

In October 2016, local author, former Wildlife Trust employee and a member for more than 30 years, Derek Niemann, published his new book "A Tale of Trees" about the fate of Britain's ancient woodlands. It focussed in particular on the Wildlife Trust BCN reserve at Waresley and Gransden Woods. Wildlife Trust BCN members got a sneak preview of the book when Derek spoke at the Members' Day and AGM in early October and were able to pick up advance signed copies on the day.

## **PARTNERS**

In carrying out all our work, the Trust's Development Plan emphasises the need to work in partnership with other organisations to maximise our influence. During the year we worked with others including:

- in Bedfordshire with Ampthill Town Council at Cooper's Hill; with the Greensand Trust, Central Bedfordshire Council and Tarmac at King's Wood, Heath and Reach; with the National Trust, Central Bedfordshire Council and the Chilterns Conservation Board in the Chilterns; with Sandy Town Council and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity at The Riddy; with Luton Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council at Blows Downs; with Butterfly Conservation at Totternhoe Quarry and with the RSPB and Greensand Trust on the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge Nature Improvement Area;
- in Cambridgeshire with Anglian Water at Grafham Water; with Fenland District Council at Lattersey; with Huntingdonshire District Council at Paxton Pits; with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at the Ouse Washes and with Peterborough City Council at Woodston Ponds. We also work in a partnership with Huntingdonshire District Council, with Barratt Homes to offer membership to new

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

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homeowners, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Middle Level Commissioners to deliver the Great Fen Project; and

- in Northamptonshire with the University of Northampton, River Nene Regional Park, East Northamptonshire District Council, Anglian Water and Northamptonshire County Council on the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area; with corporate partners such as Prologis, Canoe 2 and Anglian Water for whom we continue to manage Pitsford Nature Reserve; with the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit and Daventry District Council providing ecological planning support and on many reserves with local authorities including those for Northampton Borough, Corby, East Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire County Council.

In addition, the Trust continues to play a leading role in the three Local Nature Partnerships (LNP) in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. LNPs have arisen from a recommendation in the Natural Environment White Paper (2011) as a way of working strategically to deliver nature conservation objectives through cross-cutting themes, such as health and economic development and all have a strong working relationship with the Local Enterprise Partnerships covering the three counties.

#### ***Corporates and Grant Making Trusts***

Corporate partners who have funded our work this year include, among others, Cambridge University Press; Caterpillar Foundation with the last year of funding the Go Wild Project; Center Parcs with the last year of funding their project; and Vine House Farm.

Grant-giving organisations including Heritage Lottery Fund, Biffa Award, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, SITA Trust, Veolia Environmental Trust and WREN Biodiversity Action Fund also generously supported the work of the Trust.

## **PEOPLE AND CULTURE**

More than 1,000 volunteers, 18 Watch Groups and 14 local groups and 105 full- and part-time staff continue to perform to a high level, providing an important contribution to wildlife conservation locally, regionally and nationally.

Volunteers are essential to all aspects of the Trust's work. Our nature reserve wardens and volunteers help to manage our nature reserves and to greet and help visitors. Mid-week work-parties and corporate work-teams tackle conservation management tasks on reserves. Watch leaders provide exciting activities for younger members. Local Group officers and committees ensure that a diverse and interesting range of talks, walks and events are available to members and the public throughout our area. Ecology Group volunteers monitor our nature reserves; office volunteers help with a huge range of tasks; and Trustees provide governance and support to the staff.

## **FINANCE REVIEW**

The Trust's finances are divided into restricted funds, where monies raised must be spent on specific purposes, and unrestricted funds, which can be applied to general charitable activities. Of the total income in 2017, more than half £2,333,685 was unrestricted, with £1,926,165 being restricted.

This year, the Trust's activities resulted in an unrestricted deficit of £398,671 (2016 deficit of £122,030) with a restricted deficit of £44,955 (2016 deficit of £182,445) resulting in total net assets of £19,655,205 (£17,259,797 attributable to restricted activities).



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The deficit on restricted funds is a matter of phasing of work and payments on restricted projects, and it demonstrates the need for an unrestricted reserve to provide cash flow. The unrestricted deficit is the result of a dispute with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) regarding eligibility for Basic Payments Scheme (BPS) under the Common Agricultural Policy. Whilst we believe that the Trust is eligible, the RPA issued a ruling in May 2017 that the Trust is not eligible. We are disputing this ruling, but pending resolution, have taken no credit in these accounts for disputed amounts receivable. We have therefore written off the £252,109 income included in the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 and not included any income from Basic Payments in the accounts for this year, reducing our expected income by a further £242,111. There is therefore a £494,220 income shortfall in the accounts for this year. Regardless of the outcome of this dispute, public sector sources of income, such as grants from Natural England and service agreements for land management and ecological advice to local authorities, continue to decline. Competition for grants from sources such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Landfill Communities Fund has increased whilst the sums available through both these sources have reduced. We are actively working on new sources of funding, such as Carbon Capture, and we are seeking to grow voluntary income from individuals and corporate supporters as well as keeping strong control of costs.

Within the restricted funds, the land holdings in the Great Fen and certain other reserves are included, together with substantial cash balances held by us against future liabilities for managing specific nature reserves over long periods.

The unrestricted surplus represents funds received but not yet expended, and is carried forward in accordance with our financial reserves policy, described below, in order to give a degree of stability during our day to day charitable work and enable planning for efficient application of our scarce resources.

#### **Financial reserves**

The trustees have set a target for Free Reserves to be at a level sufficient to cover 6 months of unrestricted expenses, where Free Reserves is defined as Net Current Assets excluding the provisions relating to Government Grants. It is recognised that the organisation has significant other assets, but these form an integral part of the charity's raison d'être and thus the trustees have decided it is prudent to set the aforementioned target to the exclusion of those assets. The target has been set in order to provide a sound degree of resilience should circumstances change and also enable the organisation to provide the initial cash for major projects where funding is in arrears. As at the end of the year, the cover is 2 months. This is lower than the target level and reflects the loss of the RPA BPS income. The trustees have set a budget for the forthcoming year to deliver a surplus and thus move the organisation towards its target cover. However, this budgeted surplus is dependent on the RPA BPS income being restored. Without it, financial reserves will remain at their current level.

The total net current assets held by the charity at the end of March 2017 was £2,540,749, of which £2,015,185 were related to specific projects, with the balance of £525,564 being unrestricted and available for any purpose.

#### **Investment Powers, Policy and Financial Instruments**

The Trust is empowered to make investments, but the nature and level of the cash balances held do not easily allow for the longer term investment and tolerance of risk which would be required to gain significant interest in the current financial climate. Unrestricted cash balances are required for short term liquidity and accordingly are held in interest-bearing bank deposit accounts with terms reflecting expected cash requirements. Restricted cash balances are held in interest-bearing bank deposit accounts with terms reflecting expected cash requirements over the lives of

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the projects to which they relate. The Trust employs no financial instruments so does not require a policy to determine their application.

**How does the charity make decisions?**

The Trustees approve an annual operating budget for the forthcoming year and the Trust provides quarterly forecasts to inform and enable effective management. All major projects are subject to business cases presented to Trustees who critically review them, and only permit them to proceed when convinced both that they represent the effective use of Trust resources and that the risks have been properly identified and considered. The progression of major projects is subject to regular trustee review. The Trustees bring a broad range of skills and experience that includes finance, law, conservation, education and farming.

The Trust has a policy in place that limits the expenditure that may be committed. The upper end of staff authority lies with the Chief Executive who may sign off up to £100,000. Thereafter two trustees are required to authorise expenditure. Commitments are evaluated on a full-life basis, so if a project is proposed that might incur £60,000 cost in each of two years, this would be above the Chief Executive's limit. New staff positions require approval of the Trustees.

**Arrangements for setting the pay and remuneration for the key management personnel and any benchmarks, parameters or criteria used in setting their pay.**

Council sets the remuneration of the key Trust personnel as and when roles are recruited. Otherwise, excluding the Chief Executive, key Trust personnel receive the same increase as the rest of the organisation which was a flat-rate £250 per FTE, pro-rata for part-time employees from 1 April 2016. The Council Chairman sets the objectives and reviews the performance of the Chief Executive, and Council sets his remuneration.

The Trust uses a benchmarking system to ensure that its remuneration is in line with industry norms, and this is used as a reference point for key Trust personnel.

## **PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

**Risk management**

Risk Management is considered by the Executive on a continuous basis in the context of performance information, any relevant incidents and external events and influences. Proposals taken to Council and Committees include an appraisal of the related risk issues and risk management is also prominent in discussions and decision-making concerning Trust finances. This includes an appraisal of the implications for cash-flow before committing to any major new project.

The key risk areas identified are set out below:

- risks related to performance by Trust personnel;
- risks related to the resources deployed by the Trust; and
- risks related to external conditions which might affect the Trust's intended way of operating.

Within each of these, some subsidiary items have been identified to assist the Executive and Trustees in ensuring appropriate policies and procedures are in place to prevent the key risks causing adverse effects on the Trust.

These subsidiary items are set out below, for information, and for each of these, the Executive and Trustees are confident that the Trust has appropriate policies and procedures in place.

- Risks related to performance by Trust personnel;



## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Annual report (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

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- Loss of key personnel
- Non-compliance with legislation or regulations of major funder
- Welfare of children and vulnerable adults
- Risks related to the resources deployed by the Trust;
  - Decline in grant funding sources
  - Loss of, or significant damage to a Key Business Location that limits its viability to perform at current levels
  - Reliance on a limited number of key supporters (corporate or individual)
- Risks related to external conditions which might affect the Trust's intended way of operating;
  - Wildlife/environment/charity position is diminished as the UK leaves the EU
  - Economic downturn
  - Decline in public-sector support for natural environment
  - Changes in development planning regimes
  - Climate change and natural disasters
  - Competitor pressure

Whilst the Executive and Trustees are confident that appropriate mitigations are in place, in these very difficult economic times there is a high degree of focus on the finances of the Trust and the risks related to that area. The risk posed by challenges to the Trust's eligibility for agri-environment grants has affected cash flow this year and demonstrated the need for moderate financial reserves. Policies and procedures are periodically monitored and reviewed as part of the Trust's risk assessment and internal control practice.

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Membership remains the heart of the Trust's income and supporter base. Within the Trust, we are developing the ways we engage people at our nature reserves and events, to encourage them to support the Trust. By increasing our activity and profile on social media, we will continue the steady increase in the numbers of visitors to our website, and encourage them to join the Trust. We are also looking to grow our wider supporter base, in addition to membership. The on-line national "My WildLife" campaign, launched in 2015, is becoming an annual call to action and is starting to engage with a larger audience to encourage them to take action for wildlife and join the Trust.

Our Wildlife Guardians scheme, which was simplified in 2015, continues to be supported and has seen some growth in the number of Wildlife Guardians. In exploring the best ways to engage with higher-level donors, we will work in partnership with RSWT and other Wildlife Trusts. We have been evolving how we make the most of the reception at the Society of Wildlife Artists' exhibition at the Mall Galleries in London and we will engage with them again in October 2017 now that it is becoming an annual event for the Wildlife Trusts.

Strong partnerships with key local businesses will remain valuable to the Trust, such as BGL supporting education work in the Great Fen. A new relationship has been developed with LXB Developers who are developing the Rushden Lakes site, and we will be managing the wildlife site for the owners, the Crown Estates. We aim to gain the support of other large local companies, and from national companies headquartered in the three counties.

Although the Trust will oppose developments which are seriously damaging to important wildlife sites, we aim to work actively with developers, both before and after planning permission is granted, to build in benefits for wildlife. This approach has already improved the wildlife habitats

## **The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

### **Annual report (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017**

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of Cambourne, Houghton Regis Quarry, and Trumpington Meadows near Cambridge. At the latter, we are working with the house-builders, Barratt Homes, who will be paying for Trust memberships for home buyers for a period during the coming year.

At Lilbourne Meadows the Trust will move from an advisory role to a management role at a new nature reserve being established as part of the development of the next phase of the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal in Northamptonshire. Working with Trust corporate partners Prologis, the Trust will take on responsibility for the conservation of a new 70 hectares (172 acres) nature reserve, Lilbourne Meadows, which will also be accessible to the public. The site includes a network of ponds and wetlands particularly for great crested newts, a large man-made bat-house, and an open mosaic of grassland. The site also provides livestock facilities for the sheep and cattle that will graze the site.

In the Nene Valley, the Trust has worked with a wide partnership to deliver the first three years of the Nature Improvement Area. Central government funding for this ended at the start of 2015 – 2016, but the Trust is working with its partners to find funding to continue the work. At the heart of the Nene Valley, a new partnership with the retail development at Rushden Lakes will fund the Trust to manage an area of internationally important wildlife habitats, which also link together our reserves at Ditchford, Higham Ferrers, Wilson's Pits and Irthlingborough, creating a single large nature reserve, with a visitor centre at the edge of the retail park at Rushden Lakes due to open in Summer 2017. The Trust will continue working with the Nenescape Landscape Partnership and will submit a second-stage funding application in 2017. Ecological land advice and river restoration work are key initiatives.

On the North Chilterns Chalk, we have been managing the important SSSI at Houghton Regis Quarry for several years and are looking forward to extending the wildlife habitat within a future housing development. Our increased involvement in the Ouse Valley in recent years, through extensions to our nature reserve at Houghton Meadows and our taking the lease at Godmanchester Gravel Pits, will continue with the development of the Godmanchester reserve and at our education centre at Paxton Pits.

At Flitwick Moor work will include large-scale infrastructure, such as bridges, and at Cooper's Hill further turf stripping and tree felling will take place.

The Trust continues to work with land-owners throughout the three counties and is developing new partnerships to enable the expansion of the area of wildlife habitat without needing to raise the money to do all the work directly.

This Trust will continue to play a leading role in the Wildlife Trusts movement nationally, serving on working groups, leading initiatives, piloting new schemes and sharing good practice with other Trusts.



## **STATUTORY INFORMATION**

### **Statement of the Board's responsibilities**

The Trustees, as listed under Charity Information at the beginning of this report, are the Directors of the Trust in terms of the Companies Act. The Directors are Charity Trustees as defined by section 97 of the Charities Act 2011. The Trustees collectively form the Council of the charity which is also the Board of Directors of the company who are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group 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 in the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the reparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

### **Going concern**

The activities of the company, its objectives, factors likely to affect its future development and the policies for managing its capital and financial risk are detailed in the Annual Report. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future as the trust has a regime of annual budgeting supported by quarterly reforecasting, enabling considered management and informed decision making. This, allied with a pragmatic level of reserves, an appropriate identification and quantification of risk, supports the Trustee conclusion. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

**The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

**Annual report (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2017**

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**Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors**

The Council of Trustees who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. Each of the Members of the Council have confirmed that they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as Members of the Council in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, the Trustees are also approving the Strategic Report (pages 5-26) in their capacity as company directors.

By order of the Board



Sir Graham Fry  
**Chairman of Council**

2017

## **The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

### **Independent auditors' report**

#### **To the members of The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

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We have audited the financial statements of The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire for the year ended 31 March 2017 set out on pages 29 to 50. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland including Financial Reporting Standard 102'.

This report is made solely to the 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 company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed as auditors under the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

#### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Report of the Trustees and Strategic Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

#### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities Act 2011

**The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

**Independent auditors' report**

**To the members of The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

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**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report and Strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees' is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.



**Jane Hill (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**For an on behalf of Saffery Champness LLP**

6/9/2017

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

Unex House  
Bourges Boulevard  
Peterborough  
PE1 1NG

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Statement of financial activities incorporating the income and expenditure account For the year ended 31 March 2017

|   | Notes     | Unrestricted<br>Income<br>£ | Restricted<br>income<br>£ | Total<br>2017<br>£ | Total<br>2016<br>£ |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Incoming and endowments from:</b>                                  |           |                             |                           |                    |                    |
| Voluntary income  | 2         | 1,783,200                   | 182,418                   | 1,965,618          | 1,590,492          |
| Charitable activities   | 3         | 534,173                     | 1,736,895                 | 2,271,068          | 2,886,183          |
| Bank interest   | 4         | 16,312                      | 6,852                     | 23,164             | 41,756             |
|   |           | <u>2,333,685</u>            | <u>1,926,165</u>          | <u>4,259,850</u>   | <u>4,518,431</u>   |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>  |           |                             |                           |                    |                    |
| Raising funds   |           | 843,755                     | -                         | 843,755            | 774,079            |
| Charitable activities   |           | 2,378,122                   | 1,480,817                 | 3,858,939          | 4,053,410          |
| Total   | 5         | <u>3,221,877</u>            | <u>1,480,817</u>          | <u>4,702,694</u>   | <u>4,827,489</u>   |
| Profit/(loss) on disposal of fixed assets                             |           | 638                         | (1,420)                   | (782)              | 4,583              |
| <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>                                       |           | <u>(887,554)</u>            | <u>443,928</u>            | <u>(443,626)</u>   | <u>(304,475)</u>   |
| Transfers between funds   |           | 488,883                     | (488,883)                 | -                  | -                  |
| <b>Net incoming resources before other recognised gains or losses</b> |           | <u>(398,671)</u>            | <u>(44,955)</u>           | <u>(443,626)</u>   | <u>(304,475)</u>   |
| <b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>                               |           |                             |                           |                    |                    |
| Gains/(losses) on disposal of fixed assets                            |           | -                           | -                         | -                  | -                  |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>  |           | <u>(398,671)</u>            | <u>(44,955)</u>           | <u>(443,626)</u>   | <u>(304,475)</u>   |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>  |           |                             |                           |                    |                    |
| Total funds brought forward   |           | 2,794,079                   | 17,304,752                | 20,098,831         | 20,403,306         |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>                                    | <b>18</b> | <u>2,395,408</u>            | <u>17,259,797</u>         | <u>19,655,205</u>  | <u>20,098,831</u>  |

The statement of financial activities contains all gains and losses for the year and all activities relate to continuing operations. The profit for the purposes for the Companies Act 2006 is the net incoming resources before other recognised gains/losses.

The notes on pages 33 to 50 form part of these financial statements.



# The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

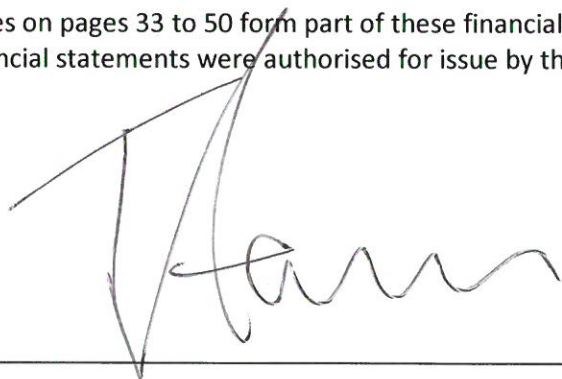
## Balance sheet For the year ended 31 March 2017

|  | Notes | 2017      |            | 2016      |            |
|--|-------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
|  |       | £         | £          | £         | £          |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                            |       |           |            |           |            |
| Intangible assets                              | 10    |           | 99,000     |           | 178,278    |
| Tangible assets (Page 32)                      |       |           | 4,306,659  |           | 4,419,255  |
| Heritage assets                                | 9     |           | 13,411,394 |           | 13,411,394 |
| <b>Total fixed assets</b>                      |       |           | 17,817,053 |           | 18,008,927 |
| <b>Current assets</b>                          |       |           |            |           |            |
| Stocks   |       | 37,305    |            | 25,170    |            |
| Debtors  | 11    | 1,354,141 |            | 1,062,564 |            |
| Loan to associated organisation                | 12    | 35,000    |            | 35,000    |            |
| Investment                                     |       | -         |            | -         |            |
| Cash at bank and in hands                      |       | 1,774,386 |            | 2,575,214 |            |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                    |       | 3,200,832 |            | 3,697,948 |            |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                             |       |           |            |           |            |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 13    | (660,083) |            | (793,439) |            |
| Net assets before pension provision            |       | 2,540,749 |            | 2,904,509 |            |
| Pension provision                              |       | -         |            | -         |            |
| <b>Net current assets or liabilities</b>       |       |           | 2,540,749  |           | 2,904,509  |
| <b>Creditors:</b>                              |       |           |            |           |            |
| Amounts falling due after one year             | 14    |           | (702,597)  |           | (789,393)  |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges         | 15    |           | -          |           | (25,211)   |
| <b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>         |       |           | 19,655,205 |           | 20,098,832 |
| <b>The funds of the charity</b>                |       |           |            |           |            |
| Restricted income funds                        | 16    |           | 17,259,797 |           | 17,304,752 |
| Unrestricted funds                             | 17    |           | 2,395,408  |           | 2,794,080  |
| <b>Total funds</b>                             | 18    |           | 19,655,205 |           | 20,098,832 |

The notes on pages 33 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

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

**James Fanshawe – Honorary Treasurer**  
Company Registration No. 02534145



5 September 2017

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Cash flow statement For the year ended 31 March 2017

|   | Notes     | 2017<br>£ | £                | 2016<br>£ | £                |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>                        |           |           |                  |           |                  |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>          | <b>24</b> |           | (730,135)        |           | (327,901)        |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>                        |           |           |                  |           |                  |
| Dividends interest and rents from investments                       |           | 23,164    |                  | 41,756    |                  |
| Interest element of hire purchase contracts                         |           | (769)     |                  | (921)     |                  |
| Purchase of property, plant and Equipment                           |           | (81,650)  |                  | (288,562) |                  |
| Sale of Motor Vehicle   |           | 638       |                  |           |                  |
| <b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>          |           |           | (58,617)         |           | (247,727)        |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>                        |           |           |                  |           |                  |
| Capital element of hire purchase contracts                          |           | (12,076)  |                  | (8,505)   |                  |
| <b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>                        |           |           | (12,076)         |           | (8,505)          |
| <b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>  |           |           | (800,828)        |           | (584,133)        |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period  |           |           | 2,575,214        |           | 3,159,347        |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b> | <b>25</b> |           | <u>1,774,386</u> |           | <u>2,575,214</u> |

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Summary of fixed assets  
For the year ended 31 March 2017

| Tangible assets          | Freehold  | Land in   | Improvements | Conservation                           | Office    | Motor    | Computer  | Total     |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
|                          | Property  | tenure    |              | equipment,<br>hides and<br>fencing etc | equipment | vehicles | equipment |           |
|                          | £         | £         | £            | £                                      | £         | £        | £         | £         |
| <b>Cost or valuation</b> |           |           |              |  |           |          |           |           |
| At 1 April 2016          | 1,547,289 | 2,169,148 | 1,005,646    | 1,222,951                              | 38,474    | 416,100  | 75,634    | 6,475,242 |
| Additions                | -         | -         | -            | 11,000                                 | -         | 14,107   | 56,543    | 81,650    |
| Disposals                | -         | -         | -            | -                                      | -         | (17,819) | (5,409)   | (23,228)  |
| Transfers                | -         | -         | -            | -                                      | -         | -        | -         | -         |
| - Other                  | -         | -         | -            | -                                      | -         | -        | -         | -         |
| - Heritage assets        | -         | -         | -            | -                                      | -         | -        | -         | -         |
| Revaluation              | -         | -         | -            | -                                      | -         | -        | -         | -         |
| At 31 March 2017         | 1,547,289 | 2,169,148 | 1,005,646    | 1,233,951                              | 38,474    | 412,388  | 126,768   | 6,533,664 |
| <b>Depreciation</b>      |           |           |              |  |           |          |           |           |
| At 1 April 2016          | 389,516   | -         | 300,729      | 885,386                                | 36,571    | 372,562  | 71,223    | 2,055,987 |
| On disposals             | -         | -         | -            | -                                      | -         | (17,819) | (3,989)   | (21,808)  |
| Transfers                | -         | -         | -            | -                                      | -         | -        | -         | -         |
| Charge for the year      | 30,535    | -         | 44,217       | 93,779                                 | 674       | 21,124   | 2,497     | 192,826   |
| Revaluation              | -         | -         | -            | -                                      | -         | -        | -         | -         |
| At 31 March 2017         | 420,051   | -         | 344,946      | 979,165                                | 37,245    | 375,867  | 69,731    | 2,227,005 |
| <b>Net book value</b>    |           |           |              |  |           |          |           |           |
| At 31 March 2017         | 1,127,238 | 2,169,148 | 660,700      | 254,786                                | 1,229     | 36,521   | 57,037    | 4,306,659 |
| At 31 March 2016         | 1,157,773 | 2,169,148 | 704,917      | 337,565                                | 1,903     | 43,538   | 4,411     | 4,419,255 |

The net book value of motor vehicles includes £3,854 (2016 - £6,746) in respect of assets held under hire purchase contracts. The depreciation charge in respect of such assets amounted to £2,892 (2016 - £2,892).



# The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2017

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### Charity Information

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire is a charity domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB23 6DH.

#### 1. Accounting policies

##### 1.1 Basis of accounting

These financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 are prepared in accordance with FRS102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ('FRS102') and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investments and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by provisions of 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 (effective 1 January 2015).

The Trustees confirm that the Charity is a public benefit entity.

##### 1.2 Critical Judgements made in applying accounting policies

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Charity accounts for depreciation in accordance with FRS 102. The depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. Judgements are made on the estimated useful life of the assets which are regularly reviewed.

# The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

## Notes to the financial statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

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### 1. Accounting policies (Continued)

#### 1.3 Fund accounting

##### 1.3.1 Unrestricted Funds

These funds can be used for any of the charity's purposes.

##### 1.3.2 Restricted Income Funds

These funds have been given to the Trust for a particular purpose to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor

#### 1.4 Incoming resources

Voluntary income is received by way of donations or gifts, legacies, subscriptions and covenants and fundraising activities. The income is all credited to the income and expenditure account on a receipts basis, except legacies. Legacy income is included in the accounts when the amount due can be quantified with reasonable probability and the timing of the receipt is known. Tax refunds on covenant income are however accrued. Gifts in kind of a capital nature are taken into account on a current valuation. Rents are not recognised on a receivable basis.

Few life subscriptions are received and are not material in the context of total subscription income. They are therefore credited to income upon receipt and are not deferred.

Revenue grants including government grants, service level agreements and landfill tax credits are either credited to the income and expenditure account on a receipts basis or accrued depending upon their nature. A number of grants are retrospective and where these are outstanding at the year-end for work completed, they are accrued. Grants received for the acquisition of a fixed asset are credited to the income and expenditure account when received and depreciation charged against the fund to which it is credited over the life of the asset.

#### 1.5 Resources expended

Capital purchases are included in the accounts at cost. A de minimis level of £10,000 is applied to all capital items, capital purchases of less than £10,000 being expensed.

All expenditure, other than that which has been capitalised, is included in the SOFA, recognised on an accruals basis, as a liability is incurred. Any irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the cost it relates to.

Cost of Raising Funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of fundraising and maintaining memberships.

Charitable activities consists of those costs incurred in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. These include the provision of the premises, personnel, information technology and audit fees.

Support costs are allocated to each category of expenditure based on the proportion of staff costs.

Commission paid to staff in respect of subscription sales made is recognised on a receipts basis.

# The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

## Notes to the financial statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

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### 1. Accounting policies (Continued)

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

#### 1.6 Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Freehold property                          | 2% straight line basis      |
| Improvements                               | 2 – 7 % straight line basis |
| Computer equipment                         | 25% straight line basis     |
| Conservation equipment hides, fencing etc. | 12.5% straight line basis   |
| Office equipment                           | 10% straight line basis     |
| Motor vehicles                             | 25% straight line basis     |

#### 1.7 Heritage assets

The focus of the Trust is the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats and biodiversity throughout Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. As such the Trust owns and maintains a number of nature reserves that fall into the definition of heritage assets in accordance with FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that, owing to the incomparable nature of the nature reserves, conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient reliability and that, even if valuations could be obtained, the costs would be onerous compared with the additional benefits derived by the Trust and users of the accounts. As a result, these assets have been capitalised at cost, and being land in nature reserves have not been depreciated.

Nature reserves acquired by gift are not capitalised unless a reliable enough reference value at the deemed cost of the asset is available without undue expense to the Trust.

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.

#### 1.8 Intangible assets

Purchases of entitlement to Single Farm Payments/Basic Scheme Payments are valued at cost less accumulated amortisation. Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost in equal annual instalments over the estimated useful life. The useful life of the Basic Scheme Payments entitlements was deemed to be until the end of 2018. However, we are currently in dispute with the RPA, who have ruled that these entitlements have been returned to the national reserve. We have therefore written down the value to £nil (2016: £178,278).



## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Notes to the financial statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

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#### 1. Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, where cost comprises purchase price.

##### 1.10 Pension Costs

The Trust operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are written off against incoming resources in the year they are payable. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the Trust in independently administered funds.

##### 1.11 Deferred Income

In accordance with SORP 2015 (Accounting by Charities), restricted funds received for projects which are substantially incomplete or not commenced at the year-end are recognised in the year in which they have been received and carried forward in the balance of restricted funds. The restricted funds are reduced each year by an amount equal to any expenditure on such projects which have been incurred in the year.

##### 1.12 Financial Instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets are recognised in the Charity's statement of financial position when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are classified into specified categories. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of recognition.

###### 1.12.1 Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial assets classified as fair value through the statement of financial activities are measured at fair value.

###### 1.12.2 Other financial assets

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate, except for short-term receivables when the recognition of interest would be immaterial. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period.

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Notes to the financial statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

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#### 1. Accounting policies (Continued)

##### 1.12 Financial Instruments (Continued)

###### 1.12.2 Other financial assets (continued)

The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the debt instrument to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

###### 1.12.3 Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through the statement of financial activities, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. The impairment loss is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

###### 1.12.4 Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity.

##### 1.13 Classification of financial liabilities

###### 1.13.1 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial liabilities classified as fair value through the statement of financial activities are measured at fair value.

###### 1.13.2 Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expenses recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

###### 1.13.3 Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when, and only when, the Charity obligations are discharged, cancelled, or they expire.

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Notes to the financial statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

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#### 1. Accounting policies (Continued)

##### 1.14 Finance and operating leases

Rentals payable under both finance and operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

##### 1.15 Provisions

A provision is recognised when the Trust has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

##### 1.16 Material uncertainties/judgements

There were no material uncertainties or judgments contained within the presented figures.

##### 1.17 Donated goods and services

During the year, the Trust received donated goods and services from Costain Group, valued at £9000, this was in respect of laying a new access track at Blow's Down in Beds.

##### 1.18 Taxation policy

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax on charitable activities.



## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Notes to the financial statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

#### 2. Voluntary income

|                                     | Unrestricted     | Restricted     | 2017<br>Total    | 2016<br>Total    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                     | £                | £              | £                | £                |
| Donations and sponsorships          | 227,859          | 133,070        | 360,929          | 241,120          |
| Legacies                            | 184,676          | 39,995         | 224,671          | 82,012           |
| Subscriptions and Gift Aid          | 1,274,483        | 9,353          | 1,283,836        | 1,259,810        |
| Grants received of a general nature | 96,182           | -              | 96,182           | 7,550            |
|                                     | <u>1,783,200</u> | <u>182,418</u> | <u>1,965,618</u> | <u>1,590,492</u> |

#### 3. Incoming resources from charitable activities

|  | Unrestricted   | Restricted       | 2017<br>Total    | 2016<br>Total    |
|--|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  | £              | £                | £                | £                |
| RPA Grants received for a specific Purpose | 375,437        | -                | 375,437          | 591,205          |
| RPA BPS 2015 Grants written off            | (252,109)      | -                | (252,109)        | -                |
| Grants received for a specific purpose     | 7,498          | 755,045          | 762,543          | 615,142          |
| Service level agreements                   | 122,302        | 593,283          | 715,585          | 747,494          |
| Landfill tax credits                       | -              | 173,828          | 173,828          | 462,405          |
| Other income                               | 277,032        | 177,409          | 454,441          | 447,288          |
| Appeals                                    | 4,013          | 37,330           | 41,343           | 22,649           |
|  | <u>534,173</u> | <u>1,736,895</u> | <u>2,271,068</u> | <u>2,886,183</u> |

Included in the above grants received for a specific purpose:

2017: £415,328 (2016: £769,010) are derived from government sources and £NIL has been released from deferred income (2016: £64,828).

2017: £259,275 (2016: £311,120) are derived from Heritage Lottery Fund.

#### 4. Bank interest

|                          | Unrestricted  | Restricted   | 2017<br>Total | 2016<br>Total |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|                          | £             | £            | £             | £             |
| Interest received income | 16,312        | 6,852        | 23,164        | 41,756        |
|                          | <u>16,312</u> | <u>6,852</u> | <u>23,164</u> | <u>41,756</u> |

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Notes to the financial statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

#### 5. Total expenditure

|                           | Staff costs      | Other direct costs | Support          | Governance    | 2017             | 2016             |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
|                           | £                | £                  | £                | £             | £                | £                |
| Fundraising               | 335,824          | 316,557            | 180,854          | 10,520        | 843,755          | 774,079          |
| Nature reserve management | 760,796          | 1,001,475          | 409,719          | 23,832        | 2,195,822        | 2,328,142        |
| Wider countryside         | 284,512          | 102,330            | 153,221          | 8,913         | 548,976          | 522,077          |
| Partnership projects      | 300,301          | 151,884            | 161,723          | 9,407         | 623,315          | 639,263          |
| Education and community   | 227,164          | 134,210            | 122,336          | 7,116         | 490,826          | 563,927          |
|                           | <u>1,908,597</u> | <u>1,706,456</u>   | <u>1,027,853</u> | <u>59,788</u> | <u>4,702,694</u> | <u>4,827,488</u> |

**2017**  
**£**

**2016**  
**£**

Total resources expended are stated after charging:

|  |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Auditors remuneration – audit          | 16,929         | 13,250         |
| Depreciation of fixed assets           | 192,826        | 222,408        |
| Amortisation of intangible assets      | 36,000         | 64,828         |
| Profit/(loss) on sale of fixed assets  | (782)          | 4,583          |
| Amounts payable under operating leases | 38,138         | 38,138         |
|  | <u>373,011</u> | <u>343,207</u> |

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
For the year ended 31 March 2017

| 6. Analysis of support costs | Fundraising | Nature reserve management | Wider countryside | Partnership projects | Education and community | Costs     | Support depn | Total     |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
|                              | £           | £                         | £                 | £                    | £                       | £         | £            | £         |
| Communications               | 26,260      | 59,491                    | 22,248            | 23,482               | 17,763                  | 149,244   | -            | 149,244   |
| Management                   | 50,414      | 114,211                   | 42,711            | 45,081               | 34,102                  | 286,519   | -            | 286,519   |
| Finance and administration   | 45,215      | 102,433                   | 38,306            | 40,432               | 30,585                  | 256,298   | 673          | 256,971   |
| Premises                     | 28,591      | 64,773                    | 24,223            | 25,567               | 19,340                  | 131,225   | 31,269       | 162,494   |
| HR                           | 16,024      | 36,301                    | 13,574            | 14,329               | 10,839                  | 91,067    | -            | 91,067    |
| IT                           | 14,350      | 32,510                    | 12,158            | 12,832               | 9,707                   | 80,919    | 639          | 81,558    |
|                              | 180,854     | 409,719                   | 153,220           | 161,723              | 122,336                 | 995,272   | 32,581       | 1,027,853 |
| Governance                   | 10,520      | 23,832                    | 8,913             | 9,407                | 7,116                   | 59,788    | -            | 59,788    |
|                              | 191,374     | 433,551                   | 162,133           | 171,130              | 129,452                 | 1,055,060 | 32,581       | 1,087,641 |

All support costs have been allocated on the basis of the proportion of staff costs



## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

#### 7. Staff costs

|   | 2017             | 2016             |
|---|------------------|------------------|
|   | £                | £                |
| The movement in the year is after charging: |                  |                  |
| Salaries and wages                          | 2,268,158        | 2,187,446        |
| Social security costs                       | 194,123          | 188,823          |
| Other pension costs                         | 133,895          | 121,416          |
|   | <u>2,596,176</u> | <u>2,497,685</u> |

#### Employees and volunteers

|  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Headcount average number of employees                            | 107       | 105       |
| The F.T.E. average number of employees analysed by function was: |           |           |
| Nature reserve management  | 30        | 27        |
| Wider countryside  | 10        | 11        |
| Partnership projects   | 13        | 11        |
| Education  | 8         | 10        |
| Central support services   | 18        | 17        |
| Fundraising and donor development                                | 6         | 6         |
| Marketing and membership services                                | 6         | 5         |
|  | <u>91</u> | <u>87</u> |

We rely on volunteers to help in all aspects of our work particularly for practical conservation work, administration and fundraising.

Members of the Board did not receive any remuneration or benefits in kind during the period. Costs incurred by the Board travelling on Trust business and reimbursed to them amounted to nil.

One employee received emoluments of between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2016: one).

Total remuneration of key management personnel in the period was £253,952 (£241,879 for 2016)

**8. Pension and other post-retirement benefit commitments**

The Trust currently operates two defined contribution pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Trust in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Trust to the fund and amounted to £91,351 (2016 - £85,627) for Capita pension scheme and £42,544 (2016 - £35,789) for Scottish Widows scheme. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

Prior to the defined contribution schemes, the Trust operated a defined benefit scheme. This is now closed, but a small number of former staff remain in the scheme. This defined benefit scheme is provided through the Pensions Trust's Growth Plan (the Plan). The Plan is funded and is not contracted-out of the State scheme. The Plan is a multi-employer pension plan. The Trust accounts for the plan as a defined contribution scheme because it is not possible to separately identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities in the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The scheme is in deficit, with a 10-year deficit recovery plan. At the request of the Trustee we have paid £24,856 (2016: £24,179) towards the deficit recovery plan. If the Trust withdraws from the scheme in full then it is likely to crystallise a liability to the scheme. It is not possible to ascertain with any certainty what the potential liability might be.

The Trustee commissions an actuarial valuation of the Plan every three years. The purpose of the actuarial valuation is to determine the funding position of the Plan by comparing the assets with the past service liabilities as at the valuation date. Asset values are calculated by reference to market levels. Accrued past service liabilities are valued by discounting expected future benefit payments using a discount rate calculated by reference to the expected future investment returns. The rules of the Plan give the Trustee the power to require employers to pay additional contributions in order to ensure that the statutory funding objective under the Pensions Act 2004 is met. The statutory funding objective is that a pension scheme should have sufficient assets to meet its past service liabilities, known as Technical Provisions. If the actuarial valuation reveals a deficit, the Trustee will agree a recovery plan to eliminate the deficit over a specified period of time either by way of additional contributions from employers, investment returns or a combination of these.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
For the year ended 31 March 2017

9. Heritage assets

Five year summary of heritage asset transactions

|  | 2017              | 2016              | 2015              | 2014              | 2013              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | £                 | £                 | £                 | £                 | £                 |
| Cost brought forward                                   | 13,411,394        | 13,307,175        | 10,450,964        | 10,023,906        | 8,559,738         |
| Purchases in year                                      | -                 | 104,219           | 1,794             | 2,847             | 392,254           |
| Transfer from land in tenure and freehold property     | -                 | -                 | 2,719,417         | 424,211           | 1,071,914         |
| Restatement of asset values acquired by merger in 1992 | -                 | -                 | 135,000           | -                 | -                 |
| Disposals  | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 |
| <b>Cost carried forward</b>                            | <b>13,411,394</b> | <b>13,411,394</b> | <b>13,307,175</b> | <b>10,450,964</b> | <b>10,023,906</b> |

It is not practical to separately identify the amount spent on maintaining these assets. There is only one class of heritage asset, included in the above, which consists of land purchased and held as a nature reserve. The policy for acquisition, disposal and maintenance of such land is outlined in the Trustees' report.

The movement information has not been given for any accounting period earlier than the period immediately before the period in which the FRS30 standard was first applied as it is not practicable to do so.

Acquisitions in the five years above are valued at purchase price in accordance with the Trust's accounting policy (see accounting policy 1.4). This includes any legal costs in relation to the land purchase.

Any heritage assets donated in the period have been reflected in the balance sheet in reference to the market value date of the donation.

10. Intangible assets

|  | 2017          | 2016           |
|--|---------------|----------------|
|  | £             | £              |
| Intangible assets as at 1 April brought forward    | 178,278       | 243,106        |
| Entitlement to Basic Payments Scheme               | (43,278)      | -              |
| Amortisation of Basic Payments Scheme Entitlements | (36,000)      | (64,828)       |
| <b>Total intangible assets as at 31 March 2017</b> | <b>99,000</b> | <b>178,278</b> |

10. Intangible assets

(continued)



## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

The useful life of the Basic Scheme Payments entitlements is deemed to be until the end of 2019. However, we are currently in dispute with the RPA, who had ruled that these entitlements have been returned to the national reserve, subsequently they have stated that they are returning some of the Entitlements, these are estimated to be equivalent to 1000 hectares. Therefore we have written down the value to £99,000.

#### 11. Debtors

|                                | 2017<br>£        | 2016<br>£        |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Trade debtors                  | 862,784          | 416,787          |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 491,333          | 632,807          |
| Other Debtors                  | 24               | 12,970           |
|                                | <u>1,354,141</u> | <u>1,062,564</u> |

Included in accruals and deferred income is rental income of £395 which has been received but does not relate to the period.

#### 12. Loan to Association Organisation

|  | 2017<br>£     | 2016<br>£     |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Loan to Wildlife Fundraising (Central) Limited | <u>35,000</u> | <u>35,000</u> |

The loan was paid as a contribution towards the set up costs of Wildlife fundraising (Central) Limited. Under the terms of the agreement the earliest date for repayment of the loan was 1 August 2015.

#### 13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

|  | 2017<br>£      | 2016<br>£      |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Trade creditors                            | 299,497        | 468,240        |
| Taxation and social security               | 70,299         | 63,488         |
| Other creditors                            | 27,027         | 33,811         |
| Obligations under hire purchase agreements | 5,852          | 12,076         |
| Accruals and deferred income               | 257,408        | 215,824        |
|  | <u>660,083</u> | <u>793,439</u> |

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
For the year ended 31 March 2017

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

|   | 2017<br>£ | 2016<br>£ |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Deferred income (Luton Guided Busway)               | 598,455   | 664,950   |
| Deferred income (BPS Entitlements)                  | 99,000    | 113,450   |
| Obligations under hire purchase agreements          | 5,142     | 10,993    |
|   | 702,597   | 789,393   |
| <b>Deferred income analysis</b>                     |           |           |
| In more than one year but not more than two years   | 139,598   |           |
| In more than two years but not more than five years | 173,833   |           |
| In more than five years                             | 389,166   |           |

15. Provisions for liabilities and charges

|   | <b>Provision of<br/>Clawback for<br/>RPA Payments</b> |
|---|---|
| Provisions for liabilities and charges as at 1 April 2016                               | 25,211  |
| Release of provision to equal 10% of BPS income received<br>in year ended 31 March 2017 | (25,211)  |
| <b>Provision for liabilities and charges as at 31 March 2017</b>                        | -   |

16. Restricted income funds

These funds have been set aside for specific projects. These projects may arise out of the Trust's ongoing activities, or the Trust may be asked to carry out a specific task. Either way, at some stage in the project, grants and donations will have been received specific to that project. Therefore once a project is commenced any funds allocated to it are restricted to that fund. It is anticipated that these funds will be used over the coming months and years as the expenditure for which these funds were raised is incurred. There are therefore many small funds and for the purposes of statutory reporting these have been grouped together under 4 main headings.

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

#### 16. Restricted income funds (continued)

|                     | Balance at<br>31 March<br>2016<br>£ | Incomings<br>£ | Outgoings<br>£ | Gain/losses<br>and transfers<br>£ | Balance at<br>31 March<br>2017<br>£ |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Land purchase fund  | 15,054,602                          | -              | -              | -                                 | 15,054,602                          |
| Great Fen           | 488,618                             | 91,143         | 250,484        | -                                 | 329,277                             |
| Luton Guided Busway | 738,904                             | -              | 73,954         | -                                 | 664,950                             |
| Other projects      | 1,022,628                           | 502,853        | 314,513        | -                                 | 1,210,968                           |
|                     | <u>17,304,752</u>                   | <u>593,996</u> | <u>638,951</u> | <u>-</u>                          | <u>17,259,797</u>                   |

Transfers out of restricted funds have been made where the project has been completed and no funding is required to be returned to the funders. Transfers into the funds are made when the project has been completed and the shortfall on funding is made up from the charity's general funds.

#### 17. Unrestricted funds

|               | Balance at<br>31 March<br>2016<br>£ | Incomings<br>£ | Outgoings<br>£ | Gain/losses<br>and transfers<br>£ | Balance at<br>31 March<br>2017<br>£ |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| General funds | 2,794,080                           | -              | -              | (398,672)                         | 2,395,408                           |
|               | <u>2,794,080</u>                    | <u>-</u>       | <u>-</u>       | <u>(398,672)</u>                  | <u>2,395,408</u>                    |

These funds have been set aside for projects that are not fully funded by restricted income. Any unspent funds will be spent over the coming years as the expenditure for which these funds have been set aside is incurred.



**The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
For the year ended 31 March 2017**

**18. Analysis of net assets between funds**

|   | <b>Unrestricted<br/>funds<br/>£</b> | <b>Restricted<br/>funds<br/>£</b> | <b>Total<br/>£</b> |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Freehold property                             | 1,127,237                           | -                                 | 1,127,237          |
| Land in tenure                                | -                                   | 2,169,146                         | 2,169,146          |
| Other fixed assets                            | 216,669                             | 793,607                           | 1,010,276          |
| Heritage assets                               | 525,938                             | 12,885,456                        | 13,411,394         |
| Intangible fixed assets                       | 99,000                              | -                                 | 99,000             |
| Loan to associated organisation               | 35,000                              | -                                 | 35,000             |
| Stock and work in progress                    | 37,305                              | -                                 | 37,305             |
| Debtors                                       | 658,444                             | 695,697                           | 1,354,141          |
| Cash at bank and in hand including short term | 275,301                             | 1,499,085                         | 1,774,386          |
| Current liabilities                           | (475,344)                           | (184,739)                         | (660,083)          |
| Creditors due after more than one year        | (104,142)                           | (598,455)                         | (702,597)          |
| Provision for liabilities and charges         | -                                   | -                                 | -                  |
| <b>Total net assets</b>                       | <b>2,395,408</b>                    | <b>17,259,797</b>                 | <b>19,655,205</b>  |

**19. Contingent liabilities**

Included within restricted funds are grants received towards specific projects. The terms and conditions attaching to some of these grants provide for funds to be clawed back by the grant making body in the event of specific project underspends or a default by the company in respect of other terms and conditions which may apply.

No circumstances giving rise to a claw-back of restricted funds held at 31 March 2017 have been identified, but the company remains contingently liable in this respect. It is not possible to quantify the extent of any potential liability which existed at that date.

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

### Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2017

#### 20. Financial commitments – operating leases

At 31 March 2017 the company was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases in the year to 31 March 2018:

|                                | Land and buildings |                | Other         |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                | 2017               | 2016           | 2017          | 2016         |
|                                | £                  | £              | £             | £            |
| Operating leases which expire: |                    |                |               |              |
| Within one year                | 25,724             | 25,724         | 4,407         | 752          |
| Between two and five years     | 42,000             | 42,000         | 6,261         | 2,445        |
| In over five years             | 829,500            | 840,000        | -             | -            |
|                                | <u>897,224</u>     | <u>907,724</u> | <u>10,668</u> | <u>3,197</u> |

The Trust has a 100 year lease for Lings House and Woods. Currently it receives an annual amount, equivalent to the annual rental, from Northampton Borough Council of £10,500 via a service level agreement. The current agreement runs for 5 years and ends on 31 March 2018.

#### 21. Financial commitments – finance leases

At 31 March 2017 the company was committed to making the following payments under Finance leases in the year to 31 March 2018:

|                              | Motor vehicles |              |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
|                              | 2017           | 2016         |
|                              | £              | £            |
| Finance leases which expire: |                |              |
| Within one year              | 2,371          | 4,694        |
| Between two and five years   | 790            | 3,161        |
| In over five years           | -              | -            |
|                              | <u>3,161</u>   | <u>7,855</u> |

#### 22. Related party transactions

Wildlife Fundraising (Central) Ltd (WFC) is an associated company to whom we have loaned £35,000, this loan could be repaid, although at present there is no intention to request payment in the immediate future. Wildlife Fundraising (Central) Ltd is also a trade creditor with a balance of £18,288 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

No Trustee nor any person connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2016 - £nil).

During the year no Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses (2016 - nil).

**The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire**

**Notes to the financial statements (continued)  
For the year ended 31 March 2017**

**23. Landfill tax credits**

Receipts from landfill operators are shown as trust income net of the 2% ENTRUST administration charge. Where the Trust receives funds from an environmental body, the 2% is not payable but the Trust remains accountable to ENTRUST.

**24. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities**

|  | <b>2017</b>      | <b>2016</b>      |
|--|------------------|------------------|
|  | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>         |
| Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities) | (466,790)        | (350,813)        |
| Depreciation of tangible assets  | 192,826          | 222,408          |
| Depreciation of intangible assets  | 36,000           | 64,828           |
| Write down Intangible Assets   | 43,278           | -                |
| Luton Guided Busway  | (66,495)         | (73,884)         |
| Basic Payments Scheme  | (14,450)         | (64,828)         |
| Interest element of finance leases   | 770              | 921              |
| Profit/(loss) on disposal of tangible assets   | 782              | 4,583            |
| (Increase)/decrease in stock   | (12,135)         | 10,388           |
| (Increase)/decrease in debtors   | (291,577)        | 30,788           |
| (Decrease)/increase in creditors within 1 year/provision for liabilities and charges             | (152,343)        | (172,292)        |
| <b>Net cash inflow from operating activity</b>   | <b>(730,134)</b> | <b>(327,901)</b> |

**25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

|                                      | <b>2017</b>      | <b>2016</b>      |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                      |                  | <b>£</b>         |
| Cash in hand                         | 822,181          | 1,085,431        |
| Deposits on less than 3 month notice | 952,205          | 1,489,783        |
|                                      | <b>1,774,386</b> | <b>2,575,214</b> |

**26. Transfer between funds**

Every year a transfer is made between restricted and unrestricted funds to cover restricted costs that have been paid for out of unrestricted funds.