

**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 2016**

**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 Prof David Bellamy Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey, Bt. Sir Hugh Duberly Dr Norman Moore (died 21 October 2015) Mr Ioan Thomas
<b>The Council of Trustees</b>	
<b>Chairman of Council</b>	Dr Derek Langslow
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Sir Graham Fry
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	Ms Karen Silcock
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	Ms Fiona Chesterton
<b>Chairman of Conservation, Education &amp; Community Committee</b>	Mr Stewart Lane  Mr Martin Baker Dr Jenna Bishop Ms Linda Doughty Mr Tony Juniper (retired 10 October 2015) Cllr Bill Parker (retired 10 October 2015) Sir John Robinson, Bt. (retired 10 October 2015) Mr Paul Solon Prof William Stephens Dr Ed Turner (appointed 10 October 2015) Dr Matt Walpole

**Chief Executive and senior management personnel to whom day to day management is delegated**

Mr Brian Eversham, Chief Executive  
Mr Terry Hazeldine (to Sept 2015), Director of Finance and Administration  
Mr Wynne Beaumont (from Sept 2015), Director of Finance and Administration  
Ms Kathryn Hindley, Director of Marketing, Fundraising and Communication  
Mr Oliver Burke, Director of Living Landscapes

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**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**CHARITY INFORMATION (continued)**

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

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**CONTENTS**

---

	<b>Page</b>
Annual report	1 - 26
Independent auditors' report	27 - 28
Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account	29
Balance sheet	30
Cash flow statement	31
Fixed assets	32
Notes to the financial statements	33 - 52

# **THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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The Council have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016. 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 10 October 2015. 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 RSWT 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 105 staff (108 for 2015) with the average number of full-time equivalents being 89 (91 for 2015). 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 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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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

This report follows the structure of a Five Year plan approved by Council and adopted on 1 April 2015. The Trust's executive board, comprising Chief Executive, Finance and Administration Director, Director of Marketing, Fundraising and Communications and Director of Living Landscapes reviewed the Development Plan and the new 5-year plan for 2015 – 2020 was approved by Council on 23 September 2014 and implemented on 1 April 2015.

The Plan for 2015-20 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 page 7 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 relations 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 respectability by association, 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.

# **THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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The Trust continues to support the work of the RSWT. The Trust's Chief Executive was a member of the Council of RSWT from November 2012 to November 2015. Senior staff of the Trust gave presentations at national conferences, and took part in working groups on website development, on the state of nature in the UK, on the procurement of a hub contact management database for use by Wildlife Trusts, and on developing the Wildlife Trust movement's brand and marketing. The Trust's Chief Executive chaired the RSWT's steering group on ecological monitoring. 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 November 2015.

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.

This year provided some tough challenges in keeping in contact with our supporters and seeking new supporters. These national issues resulted from several episodes of negative media coverage, brought about by some charities behaving badly in their communications with their supporters. This prompted a government review of Charity regulation and best practice. This Trust has always treated supporters' information with care, respected donors' wishes and has never sold supporters' data to third parties. In response to the review, we introduced amended face to face sign up forms & event sign in sheets

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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with a Data Protection statement which enables people to opt into communications instead of the opt out that we had previously been requesting. There have been several other consequences and we will be taking on board the procedures required by new regulations as these develop over the next year.

**Tribute to a Vice President**

It is with sadness that we record the death of Dr Norman Moore, on 21 October 2015. Norman was one of the leading conservationists in post-war Britain, perhaps best known for his pioneering research, carried out at Monks Wood Research Station in Huntingdonshire (now Cambridgeshire), on DDT and other pesticides, demonstrating their impacts on birds of prey. He was chief scientific advisor to the then Nature Conservancy Council, wrote the Guidelines for the selection of SSSIs, and was instrumental in founding the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

As an ecologist, Norman played an international role in dragonfly conservation, and also had a lifelong involvement with Woodwalton Fen NNR. Norman lived in Cambridgeshire for most of his life, and was a strong advocate of the Trust's Great Fen vision

**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 delivers this public benefit through 125 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.

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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## STRATEGIC REPORT

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

- Achievements and Performance
- Finance Review
- Plans for the Future
- Principal Risks and Uncertainties

### Achievements and Performance

This section of the report follows the outline of the new Five Year Plan. Previous Plans since 2000 have been organised according to areas of staff activity, such as nature reserves, wider countryside and education, and these plans have led to some outstanding successes, introducing the concept of landscape-scale conservation. This idea, now referred to as *Living Landscapes*, has been adopted by all 47 of the Wildlife Trusts. During the life of the previous plans we have established some wonderful new nature reserves, made astonishing progress in the Great Fen, and developed one of the highest quality programmes of education and community work in the country.

The current plan retains all these areas of excellence, but, at a time when familiar sources of funding such as Heritage Lottery Fund and Landfill Communities Fund are becoming increasingly competitive, it recognises that our future success will require even more efficient working. The Trust will need to present its work to potential supporters in ever more compelling ways, and miss no opportunity to advocate for wildlife. The new Plan addresses this need for more joined-up working and stronger communications. It comprises seven thematic strands, which will shape and guide our work in the period 2015-2020. 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:

1. **Delivery:** we will create a Living Landscape at the heart of local communities, enhancing our nature reserves, working with others, and continuing to be evidence-led and based on sound research and monitoring;
2. **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;
3. **Partners:** we will build strong and effective partnerships that benefit wildlife, the Trust and others;
4. **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;
5. **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;
6. **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;
7. **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 WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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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 may appear 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**

#### **To secure the future of our local wildlife through the delivery of nature conservation at the landscape scale**

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

- Prioritising Living Landscapes 2015 – 2020
- Managing and enhancing our nature reserves for wildlife and people
- Promoting wildlife conservation in the wider community (landscape)
- Maintaining an evidence-led approach where our work is underpinned by sound research and monitoring
- Securing the future of our local wildlife through the delivery of nature conservation at the landscape-scale

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

The Wildlife Trust continues to focus on nine Living Landscape schemes. However, as part of the development of the Trust's new five year plan, work in these areas has been re-categorised. Each Living Landscape scheme is now classified within the following categories:

##### ***Growing***

A Living Landscape Scheme where the Trust is significantly increasing its conservation, education and community activity, resulting in an increase in land area under positive conservation management or restoration, and growing strong partnerships.

##### ***Maintaining***

A Living Landscape Scheme where the Trust is maintaining its level of conservation, education and community activity with a focus on improving the condition of land currently under conservation management and maintaining existing partnerships.

##### ***Responsive***

A Living Landscape Scheme where the Trust is improving its knowledge and strategy for conservation, education and community delivery, capitalising on opportunities for action, responding to potential threats and building partnerships to support progress.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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The nine landscapes are now classified as follows:

<i>Scheme name</i>	<i>County</i>
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

Four Living Landscapes are now classed as “Growing” schemes where the Trust sees the biggest current opportunities and will focus most effort, although work continues to be delivered across all nine.

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 ensuring that areas of habitat are bigger, better and more joined and therefore ecologically more robust. Each Living Landscape scheme contains a network of Trust reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, farmland and urban areas; all of which form intrinsic parts of this complex ecological web.

***Great Fen (Growing)***

Major advances were made in 2015-2016, which saw the completion of groundworks and the installation of water control structures at Kester’s Docking (creating 140ha of new wetland east of Holme Fen) and in January 2016 work beginning at Engine Farm (170ha of seasonally wet grassland and large areas of open water). On a smaller scale, in April – June 2015 restoration staff worked with the Froglife charity to create three new ponds for amphibians at Engine Farm. Wildflower seed collected last summer from Bentley Meadows, Upwood, was sown in two small blocks beside the viewing platform at Engine Farm. Two large fields along the route, comprising 40ha, were sown with a commercial wildflower seed mix and two further fields at Kester’s Docking were sown with a bird seed mix providing a valuable winter food source. The restoration team work with local graziers who provide livestock (mostly cattle, some sheep) for summer and winter grazing providing an essential conservation management tool for the Great Fen. Ryme’s Reedbed is now holding water successfully and dipwells were installed at Kester’s Docking and Engine Farm to measure changes in the water table. The Last of the Meres trail, a 10 mile (16km) way marked route linking restored land at New Decoy Farm, Old Decoy Farm, Engine Farm, and Holme Fen NNR was opened to the public.

***Nene Valley (Growing)***

The element of the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA) project funded by central government came to an end in March 2015. The NIA partnership continues and published its new five year business plan. The newly created and restored meadows, delivered as part of the Nene Valley NIA, were monitored in summer 2015 and showed early success. As part of its Nene Valley Living Landscape work the Trust secured an extension to its Living Nene Heritage Lottery funded project at Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows allowing further restoration and people engagement work. This

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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flowed almost seamlessly into “Duckers and Divers”, a Biffa Award project, to continue habitat enhancements at Irthlingborough, Higham Ferrers, Wilson’s Pits and Ditchford Lakes and Meadows.

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. The Trust continued to work closely with the developer (LXB Properties Plc) at Rushden Lakes to realise the Trust’s ambition for its first visitor centre at this location and also to achieve its Nene Wetlands vision for habitat restoration, access improvements and people engagement. As part of this, the Trust was successful in its first stage approval for Heritage Lottery funding.

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

During the summer, the Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) officer visited and surveyed 10 LWS within the North Chilterns Chalk Living Landscape; many of these landowners are now working on restoration projects with the Trust. Some of this restoration work is part funded by a Biffa Award project entitled “Scrub Off” which is helping to remove invasive scrub from selected calcareous grassland sites across the three Counties.

In September we organised a chalk grassland management event at our reserve at Pegsdon Hill to discuss shared landscape scale conservation objectives and the challenges of downland conservation management with staff from many national and regional conservation organizations.

***Ouse Valley (Growing)***

The Trust has undertaken botanical and hydrological monitoring at Wilhorn Meadow near St Ives in preparation for restoring this floodplain meadow in partnership with Huntingdonshire District Council. As our work in the Ouse Valley increases, the new knowledge this provides will be shared with partners and landowners to enhance this threatened habitat.

A project to trial mineral licks as a means of introducing wildflower seeds to meadows is underway. The Trust completed baseline botanical surveys of the target meadows and will repeat the exercise in 2017 to determine the level of success. The trial will cover over 100 hectares of species-poor floodplain meadow.

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

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. The Trust has worked with the developers and their conservation consultants to design and implement a river restoration scheme and other habitat enhancements on the Bourn Brook. This is associated with a solar farm development near the village of Wendy, which has made use of our local knowledge to improve significantly upon the baseline ecological enhancement scheme.

We have worked with Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) East to apply successfully to the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund. A series of events have been held for local landowners to promote the best Stewardship and other management options for the area to complement our woodland management. With twenty landowners engaged with the project, it is one of the largest groups so far in the Fund.

# THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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

The Trust visited and surveyed 7 Local Wildlife Sites within the Greensand Ridge and Flit Valley Living Landscape. Several of these landowners are now working with the Trust to secure potential funding for practical habitat management work through the “Secrets of the Sand” Heritage Lottery Fund funded Landscape Partnership project. As part of “Secrets of the Sands”, the Trust has worked with partners to develop plans for further investment in the management of Flitwick Moor and Cooper’s Hill nature reserves.

Our “Water for Wildlife” project has again been active along the Flit Valley and the local action group, coordinated by the Trust, has made major inroads into Himalayan balsam, small balsam and Japanese knotweed populations along the river.

### *John Clare Country (Maintaining)*

Management and monitoring of nature reserves continued. Restored limestone grassland at Sammocks Hill, Old Sulehay is now in good condition and largely species-rich. Advice to owners of Local Wildlife Sites, and comments and objections in the planning system have sought to improve management and increase connectivity between important areas of habitat.

### *Cambridgeshire Chalk (Responsive)*

We have commented on the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans to promote the importance of the network of chalk grassland sites across the Gog Magogs area. The expansion of Cambridge gives rise to both threats and opportunities and the Trust is continuing to be alert to proposals.

### *Rockingham Forest (Responsive)*

In addition to managing our nature reserves, we have surveyed important limestone grassland LWS.

## **Manage and enhance our nature reserves for wildlife and people**

The Wildlife Trust manages 127 nature reserves covering 4,003 hectares (approx.9,891 acres) (2014–15: 126 reserves, 3,945 hectares or 9,748 acres). The Trust’s estate is managed by three county-based teams with 27 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:*

- The nature reserve which the Trust manages on behalf of the developer at Trumpington Meadows was opened. This 58ha (143 acre) site included important riverside wet grassland and recently created meadows which the Trust helped design and landscape in the years before taking on the management of the reserve. A new team of two rangers has been appointed, funded by the developers.
- Working with the Floodplain Meadows Partnership to monitor the spread of meadowsweet at Fancott Woods & Meadows and cutting control plots as a trial, to reduce the vigour of meadowsweet.
- For the third year in a row, securing funding from Natural England to reduce further the introduced population of invasive water soldier at Felmersham Gravel Pits
- Work has begun on the Veolia funded ‘Moo and Mow’ project at Pegsdon Hills with new and replacement fencing, scrub management and new cattle-handling pens helping with livestock and habitat management.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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- Thanks to the help of our wonderful balsam wardens, we are winning the fight against Himalayan balsam in the Flit Vale with significantly less balsam upstream from Flitton Moor
- Turf stripping trials at Cooper's Hill continue to show good results for heather regeneration, helping to overcome the damage caused by another year of high numbers of heather beetle.
- We have recently joined in a 3-way partnership to help provide fresh food for the giraffes and other herbivores at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) Whipsnade Zoo. Once a week since mid-August a contractor has been carrying out some thinning of trees and widening of rides in the broadleaf plantation at the southern end of Cottage Bottom Fields.
- A water control structure has been installed at Fulbourn Fen to improve water flow through the site during periods of low water to help maintain this wet fen meadow habitat.
- With kind permission of the owners of Hemingford Meadows, three dipwells have now been installed, allowing us to monitor the hydrology of the site helping us understand the factors affecting this meadow.
- Ride maintenance work at Hayley Wood has included slubbing out of the ditches, which had not been done for over 50 years.
- Godmanchester nature reserve enhancements have begun with the creation of wader scrapes, erection of a new bird hide, restoration of hedgerows and improvement of paths.
- Work has progressed with habitat and access improvements to the Titchmarsh reserve, thanks to funding from Biffa Award, including repairs to damaged hides, new fencing, new interpretation, scrub clearance, laying a hedge and replacement of owl boxes and tern rafts.
- In Gamlingay Wood we have worked together with the wardens and their work party to create some new ride scallops and enlarge some old ones, to make two of the rides sunnier and add more structural diversity to the wood.
- In Fulbourn Fen a group of 35 local people helped with planting new trees in the orchard.
- The bluebell season was especially busy this year at Brampton Wood with good displays to be seen in the north east corner of the wood. The bluebell walks attracted up to 80 visitors in one day. Thanks are due to the Voluntary Wardens and the Huntingdon local group committee for their assistance.
- Creation of new ditches and a back channel at Stanground Wash to keep more water on site to allowing breeding birds to return such as teal, little egret and redshank.
- At High Wood and Meadow the Trust have been carrying out a review of the coppice coups, their size, location, rotation and current canopy cover in order to improve the overall management of the woodland.
- The North Ronaldsay Sheep Fellowship held their annual spring event at High Wood and Meadow so that they could see the Exodus flock in action managing this beautiful SSSI acid grassland.
- The Trust has bought 50 Herdwick wethers, transported from the Lake District, to supplement our summer grazing at Pegsdon Hills.
- The Trust, Anglian Water and BTO produced a new leaflet providing national management guidance on best practice scrub management for nightingales, based on the methods developed and proved to be successful at Grafham Water.
- At Houghton Regis Chalk Pit, path works funded by Central Bedfordshire Council planning obligations were completed allowing improved access around the site, and also to reduce erosion.
- A five year service level agreement from Ampthill Town Council was secured to continue to manage Cooper's Hill Nature Reserve.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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

- The best year on record for Fly orchids at Hoo Bit with specimens found well away from the traditional haunts
- 2015 saw highest numbers (in recent years) of Man & Musk orchids around Totternhoe nature reserve & surveys in March 2016 found even more Man orchids (246 in 2015 & over 300 in 2016).
- The Slow worm population translocated to Totternhoe from the Luton guided busway is doing well after 5 years, with lots of healthy specimens including many juveniles & pregnant females.
- The Flit Vale Local Group's small mammal survey at Flitwick Moor produced good results finding wood mice, yellow-necked mouse, bank vole, common shrew and the first confirmed record for this reserve of water shrew.
- Working in partnership with Butterfly Conservation, evidence of Duke of Burgundy butterflies at Sewell Cutting NR was found – characteristic signs of larval damage spotted.
- This year numbers of little egrets seem to have increased with regular sightings at Summer Leys, Pitsford and Titchmarsh. The top count of 11 was at Titchmarsh.
- This year's survey at Woodwalton Marsh revealed that numbers of bee, twayblade and pyramidal orchid have all increased and common spotted orchid has now been recorded.
- Ely Local Group carried out the annual orchid count at Chettisham Meadow and counted over 8,800 green-winged orchids, an amazing number for a meadow that is less than one hectare
- Upwood Meadows flourished in the Spring with abundant displays of cowslips, adders tongue fern and a green winged orchid population recorded as 2,909 individual spikes.
- At Felmersham Gravel Pits, bladderwort is spreading into areas recently cleared of invasive water soldier
- Variable damselfly *Coenagrion pulchellum* was recorded at Irthlingborough lakes and meadows

***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 real property 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 (this currently applies to all but two out of 127 nature reserves).

# THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

---

As noted above, the Trust's reserves increased to 127 through the opening of Trumpington Meadows, which increased the area of our nature reserves by 58ha (143 acres). The Trust has also been working hard to improve the ecological condition of its reserves through its conservation management work.

Conservation grazing continues to play a key role in the Trust's management of its nature reserves. This year 22 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 livestock comprised:

- up to 200 owned sheep in Bedfordshire in summer reducing to 160 carried through the winter
- up to 250 owned sheep in Northamptonshire reducing to 150 carried through the winter;
- 11 owned Murray Grey cattle in Northamptonshire
- 3 owned Red Poll cattle in Bedfordshire

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

### **Promote wildlife conservation in the wider community (countryside)**

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:***

- The Trust is one of the partners developing a project in the Yardley - Whittlewood ridge with the Woodland Trust (lead) and local authorities. The project will focus on restoration, buffer and linkage of woodland and other semi-natural habitats.
- Our Anglian Water funded 'Water for Wildlife' work saw another 2.5 km of the Hoffer Brook chalk stream near Hartson, Cambridgeshire restored.
- Water vole surveys of Ransonmoor and Curf Fen drainage districts in Cambridgeshire show that between 70% and 80% of the ditches have water voles;
- Another successful year of bat punts with 555 people enjoying a trip down the River Cam.
- Involvement in the Nenescape Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership succeeding in Stage 1 funding.
- Monitoring showing the early success of meadows created through Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
- The Trust has appeared at the Cambridge City Local Plan Examination in Public, to present our objections to housing allocations on the south-eastern edge of Cambridge that could affect Cherry Hinton Chalk Pits and Beechwoods nature reserves, as well as directly threaten other County Wildlife Sites and the Cambridgeshire Chalk Living Landscape.
- The Trust became a partner in the Nene Valley Catchment Sensitive Farming project.
- The Trust continues to play a key role in the Catchment Partnerships for the Nene and Ouse.
- An M.Sc. student, supervised by the Game and Wildlife Conservancy Trust (GWCT), conducted a project looking at pollinator populations in different types of agricultural field margins. The Trust successfully applied to a local grant giving body for a bursary to help fund the project.

# THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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- The Trust continues to work with Prologis and its ecologists to progress the habitat creation scheme at Lilbourne Meadows as part of the extension to the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal
- The Trust contributed to the production of Supplementary Planning Advice related to the Nene Valley Special Protection Area (SPA) and also the production of a mitigation strategy for public pressure on the SPA that new housing in the area may bring.
- The Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership held its third annual conference at the University of Northampton. The conference included speakers from the Trust and Prologis, one of the Trust's corporate partners. The focus of this year's conference was on partnership working.

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 protection and, where possible, improvement 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 and there are over 1600 Local Wildlife Sites across our three counties. The Trust measures the numbers of sites we survey each year, the numbers of landowners we actively engage with and the numbers of sites where we have helped to bring about positive management. We also measure the overall percentage of Local Wildlife Sites in positive management, though the compilation of this data, which takes account of the work of other partners, is not completed until the end of September and is therefore not available when our Annual Report goes to print, hence the figures shown are from the start of the year.

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

#### Bedfordshire

- 20 sites surveyed
- 18 LWS owners engaged with
- 8 brought into positive management by the Trust
- Total number of Local Wildlife Sites at the start of 2015/16: 392
- Percentage in positive management at the start of 2015/16: 57%

#### Cambridgeshire

- 35 sites surveyed
- 32 LWS owners engaged with
- 7 brought into positive management by the Trust
- Total number of Local Wildlife Sites at the start of 2015/16: 533
- Percentage in positive management at the start of 2015/16: 61%

#### Northamptonshire

- 39 sites surveyed
- 15 LWS owners engaged with
- 9 brought into positive management by the Trust
- Total number of Local Wildlife Sites at the start of 2015/16: 734
- Percentage in positive management at the start of 2015/16: 42%

# THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

---

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

- The "Gog Magogs" restoration" and "Scrub Off" projects helped restore 4 calcareous grassland County Wildlife Sites in Cambridgeshire
- The "Scrub Off" project cleared scrub from two calcareous grassland Local Wildlife Sites in Finedon and Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire. Both sites are disused railways and work has increased areas of species rich grassland including plants such as field scabious and wild liquorice benefitting a range of species such as marbled white butterflies.
- Two new lowland meadow Local Wildlife Sites covering 12ha discovered in South Northamptonshire through Local Wildlife Site survey work.
- Working with RSWT on successful "Secret Spaces" campaign resulting in new national Local Wildlife Sites leaflet produced to increase Local Wildlife Site profile.
- Through Coronation Meadows funding, the Trust worked with Cambridge City Council to enhance New Bit County Wildlife Site, opposite the Cambridge Botanical Gardens.

### **Maintain an evidence led approach where our work is underpinned by sound research and monitoring informing the way we work**

This year saw the establishment of the Trust's 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 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:**

- To communicate better the Trust's monitoring and research work, a new publication called "Local Wildlife In Depth" has been launched.
- New monitoring and research pages have been created on the Trust's website.
- Ecology Groups breeding bird transects identified lesser spotted woodpecker at both Flitwick Moor (Beds) and Hayley Wood (Cams). Hayley Wood also had spotted flycatcher, as did Stoke Wood End Quarter (Northants).
- In the West Cambridgeshire Hundreds and Rockingham Forest Living Landscapes, bat transects monitored the rare Barbastelle bat, with multiple records in Gamlingay Wood and Waresley & Gransden Woods, and a record at Southwick Wood (Northants).
- The Trust recorded the highest number of live dormice (11) and nests (15) from a June nest box check at Brampton for over 10 years. Dormice were found breeding in new 'Brampton' nest box design, as well as using new tube design. In Northamptonshire, more dormice were found in one day at Souther Wood, part of Fermyn Woods, just north of our Titchmarsh reserve, than have been found in the last 10 years.
- Silver-washed fritillaries had continued success on many sites, including Brampton Wood and Old Sulehay (Northants).
- Pyramidal orchids appearing in new areas at Old Sulehay and are spreading further through the Limestone Grassland Recreation Project at Sulehay.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Ecology Groups Conference took place and was a great success with over 100 people attending at the Cambourne Village College.
- Over 45 breeding bird transects were successfully carried out, covering reserves in all three counties, and a range of habitats, from grassland to wetland and woodland

# THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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- The Ecology Groups led public bat walks for International Bat Night, promoting the Trust and demonstrating how we carry out survey and monitoring. Over 100 people took part, visiting six wetland nature reserves across all three counties.
- The September 'Dormouse Dispersal' nest box check at Brampton Wood produced the first ever dormouse in a hedge outside of the wood since the reintroduction in 1993.
- Blog and Facebook group for communicating with volunteers and public about monitoring work
- 142 species of water beetle, bug and dragonfly/damselfly recorded over 15 reserves.
- New rapid grassland assessment method trialled at over 20 reserves across the 3 counties
- Increased links with universities and research organisations, notably Anglia Ruskin University projects on dormouse and bird populations – using historical data; botanical research with the Genome Campus (bluebells) and Edinburgh Botanic Gardens (adders-tongue fern).
- In-house drone photography at 5 reserves – monitoring large scale habitat change, scrub control and wetland management.
- Pond and wetland plant surveys in association with the Freshwater Habitats Trust's project Pondnet.
- Office volunteers digitising historical bird, invertebrate and plant data for reporting and record centres.

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)

### *Highlights of their work this year include:*

- The BRMC obtained some funding from the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Trust to digitise historical records of Molluscs and Orthoptera that were only held in paper form and originally collected by Beryl and Derek Rands, both former County Recorders for Bedfordshire.
- The CPERC Ten Year Anniversary Event was celebrated on Saturday 2nd May at Madingley Hall. Over 40 people attended.
- The NBRC took part in the National Biodiversity Network's Data Capture Initiative securing funding to digitise more than 300,000 historic records, covering beetles, butterflies, churchyard flora and a very large number of bird records.
- All three records centres continued their annual service level agreements with Natural England and the Environment Agency.
- The NBRC's WILDside project secured £70,000 funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide a boost for wildlife recording activities, with a range of surveys to engage people in recording and help fill numerous information gaps for different sites and species across Northamptonshire.
- The new CPERC online recording website 'CPERC Record' was launched. The website improves greatly on the functionality that CPERC have been able to provide to members of the public who wish to record their local wildlife, and is linked to the national website iRecord so that online verification can take place.

# THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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### Partnerships

**We will build strong and effective partnerships that benefit wildlife, the Trust and others.**

In carrying out this work the Trust's Development Plan emphasises the need to work in partnership with other organisations to maximise our influence. In 2015-16, we developed a new policy on the compatibility of partnerships, to ensure the Trust works with organisations which support our aims. 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 Eye Green and Woodston Ponds. We also work in a partnership with Huntingdonshire District Council, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Middle Level Commissioners to deliver the Great Fen; and
- in Northamptonshire with RSPB, University of Northampton, River Restoration Centre, River Nene Regional Park and Northamptonshire County Council on the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area; with corporate partners such as Prologis, Canoe 2 and Anglian Water on behalf of 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.

## **Reaching Out**

**We will engage with people to enhance the recognition and reputation of the Trust**

### **Education and Community**

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 19,802 people during 2015-16. This is a slight increase on the 2014-15 figures of 19,536. The number of people engaged in community activities continues to increase year on year in line with reaching out objectives (7,430 in 2013/14, 7,931 in 2014/15, 8,074 in 2015/16).

The team continued to deliver high quality events and activities which are reflected in the consistently high evaluation scores from participants and evidenced by the comments below.

- October 2015 was all about hedgehogs as the Trust supported the RSWT and RHS hedgehog campaign. 1350 school children received hedgehog themed assemblies and over 200 people attended events during the celebration week. Families were asked to monitor hedgehogs in their garden and submit results to their local records centre as well as make other hedgehog-friendly changes to their garden.
- The Trust worked in partnership with Nene Park Trust, Buglife and Froglife to plan and deliver the first Peterborough Wildlife Festival at Ferry Meadows Country Park. The final event attracted over 1,400 people.
- 'Big Minibeast Hunts' were delivered in 6 Peterborough schools to over 300 children in June and July. Each school received a summary on how to improve their grounds for wildlife, and ideas for teaching using the outdoor spaces.

Family event attendee (North Chilterns Chalk):

- *"We (myself and 2 children, 6 and 3) had a great time, we liked borrowing the explorer back pack and trying out the net to catch insects. The craft activities were also a big hit - so much so that my 6 year old took his badge and wildlife watch magazine to show and tell at school today."*

Community event attendee (Nene Valley)

- *"Very helpful friendly staff especially good with our grandchildren. They loved it!!! Never been before will definitely come again. Many thanks to all those who made it a wonderful afternoon for us and our grandchildren."*

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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Teacher on school visit (Great Fen):

- *"A great way to learn about wildlife! Very enthusiastic team of adults! Thank you."*

Leader on community group visit (Godmanchester Nature Reserve)

- *"It was so nice to have things the children could hear, smell and touch to learn about. So often you're not allowed to touch things and the children don't learn anything."*

***Nene Valley***

- In the Nene Valley, our Living Nene project, supported by Heritage Lottery Fund, came to an end in August.
- An extensive programme of education and community activities has provided a wealth of opportunities to learn about, and enjoy, their local landscape. 81 outreach sessions and 45 onsite experiences have been delivered through the project, reaching nearly 3,000 people.
- The Living Nene started from a point where habitats were declining, antisocial behaviour was a significant issue and people were unaware, or even hostile towards, the work of the Wildlife Trust and the importance of Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows for wildlife. We have achieved a considerable amount over the last three years and are ending the project with much improved habitats and a local community which very supportive of our work.
- The Trust reached out to over 500 people to gather their views on the Trust's vision for the Nene Wetlands and its Rushden Lakes Visitor Centre that is due to open its doors in 2017.

***Ouse Valley***

- The Wildlife Trust has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver a suite of education and community activities at Godmanchester Nature Reserve in the Ouse Valley. This has been instrumental in establishing the site as a Wildlife Trust nature reserve and engaging local people in making decisions about the site's future management. The project, finishing in October 2015, was a success, reaching over 4,000 people and attracting over 40 volunteers who have enthusiastically given their time to make the site the wonderful place it is now.
- The Environmental Education Centre at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve celebrated 5 years since opening in 2010. During this time over 20,000 people have come through its doors and taken part in Wildlife Trust activities. The centre continues to play a huge role in reaching new audiences in the Ouse Valley.

***North Chilterns Chalk***

- Education and community activity on the North Chiltern's Chalk continues to establish connections with the local community and support management of the urban fringe nature reserves. 65 teachers from schools within walking distance of North Chilterns Chalk nature reserves received training in environmental education techniques and guidance on using their local Wildlife Trust nature reserve independently.

***The Great Fen***

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

- The "Last of the Meres" trail officially opened by Sally Hovell from Biffa Award and Robin Hodgkinson from Clark Bradbury Charitable Trust on Friday 25th September. The 10km trail provides access to the northern section of the Great Fen.

# THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

---

- The designation of a Dark Sky Discovery Site by the Science and Technologies Facilities Council (STFC). Two areas of the Great Fen - The Wildlife Trust Countryside Centre and the Great Fen Information Point - are places where people can see the Milky Way on clear nights, joining a select few of only 100 Dark Sky Discovery Sites nationally and only the third in the East of England.
- Increased digital engagement including the launch of the Great Fen app and new digital characters the 'Fen Friends'.
- Food and Farming themed community celebration event attracting over 200 people.
- Little Bugs Club celebration event attended by 50 pre-school children and their families.
- Over 1,000 school children visited the Ramsey Heights Countryside Centre to take part in environmental programmes.
- In October the Great Fen team excavated the World War 2 Spitfire near Holme Fen. The community interest in the event was among the strongest in the Trust's recent history. The team organised a "victory" tea party in the local primary school, the new Great Fen archaeology group supported the excavation, there were tours of the excavation for over 200 local people, and 383 people visited the Spitfire themed Great Fen Discovery Day hosted by Holmewood Hall.
- The Great Fen local group organised the Rothschild Way Challenge. The 39 mile walking challenge was held on Saturday 27th June and attracted 22 walkers. They started the walk at 6am from Wicken Fen and arrived at Woodwalton Fen at 8.20pm. Over £200 was raised for the Great Fen by the walkers

### **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 "Introduction to Earthworms" with Emma Sherlock from the Natural History Museum. Seven workshops were delivered by tutors new to our programme, including Prof Richard Chandler (wetland birds) and Dr Wilf Powell (weevils). The programme continues to receive very positive feedback overall and remains highly regarded. In the last financial year, 43 workshops were programmed with 632 places offered.

### **Contributions from Members and supporters**

The success of the Trust comes primarily from our supporters. These are members, volunteers, corporate supporters and the myriad of groups and individual supporters. The financial and time contributions from supporters are the lifeblood of the Trust and it is largely their generosity that has enabled us to undertake much of the Trust's essential conservation work during the year. Increasing the supporter base and membership will continue to be a key priority as this will have a direct effect on our capacity to do more for nature conservation in the next year and secure a longer term impact on the natural environment.

### **Wildlife Watch**

The number of Wildlife Watch groups has remained at 20 this year but the number of children attending has increased for the second year in a row to 1,694 (1,576 in 2014-15). Cambourne Wildlife Watch claimed the top prize of 'Best Watch Group' in the national RSWT Watch group of the Year competition.

# THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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### ***Local Groups***

The Trust currently has fourteen Local Groups who play active roles locally in raising awareness about wildlife and the Wildlife Trust.

This year local groups raised £16,232 (£16,149 in 2014-15) for the Trust.

### ***Membership***

Membership recruitment and retention is very important to the Trust because we are only as strong as our supporters; their views and engagement are key in guiding our activity. Most new members are recruited through a recruitment company, Wildlife Fundraising (Central) Limited, which is wholly owned by, and employed by, the group of Wildlife Trusts in central England. During the year we also recruited new members through email and website campaigns and social media. We also employed a Trust promoter who works with our Supporter Engagement staff to promote the Trust and membership to people interested in protecting wildlife in our 3-counties and beyond. The recruitment company, Wildlife Fundraising (Central) which serves a group of eight Trusts including this one, has lost several recruiters across the Trust areas and has struggled to replace them, which has meant that they have not recruited the number of members planned.

The Trust had 35,893 members at the end of March 2016 (36,376 for year end 2015 35,745 for 2014) which represented a 1.3% net decrease. Membership subscriptions totalled £960,436 and in addition the Trust received £253,322 Gift Aid. The Corporate membership subscriptions provided £45,574 (£42,544 in 14/15) showing a 7.5% increase. We were the grateful beneficiaries of several legacies this year; over £71,500 was left to us. Legacies have made a substantial contribution to the work of the Trust in recent years and we are always very grateful when someone remembers us in their will. We are doing more work to encourage more supporters to remember us in this way.

Great efforts were made to retain existing supporters and at the year end the annual retention rate of members was 88.8%. 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. The Trust also acknowledges the invaluable financial support from Wildlife Guardians.

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

Corporate partners who have funded our work this year, included but are not limited to, BGL who supported our education work in the Great Fen, 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 included Heritage Lottery Fund, Biffa Award, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, SITA Trust, Veolia Environmental Trust and WREN Biodiversity Action Fund.

### **People and Culture**

The Trust benefits from the contributions of over 1,000 volunteers, who 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 a diverse and fascinating range of talks, walks and events are

# THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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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 2016, more than half (£2.57 million) was unrestricted, with £1.94 million being restricted.

This year the Trust's activities resulted in an unrestricted deficit of £122,029 (2015 surplus £18,655, see Note 27)<sup>1</sup>, with a restricted deficit of £182,445 (2015 surplus £264,476) resulting in total net assets of £20.1m (£17.3m attributed to restricted activities).

The deficit on restricted funds is a matter of phasing of work and payments on restricted projects, and, as such, is not of great concern, although it demonstrates the need for an unrestricted reserve to manage cash flow. The unrestricted deficit is a disappointing result which arises from the very challenging fund-raising and recruitment environment. Public sector sources of income, such as grants from Natural England and service agreements for land management and ecological advice to local authorities, have declined. Competition for grants from sources such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Landfill Communities Fund has increased whilst the sums available through the latter have been reduced. Hostile press publicity caused by poor behaviour by a small number of large charities may have made member recruitment more difficult in summer 2015. When it became apparent that income was below target levels, Trust management took steps to defer, or eliminate, expenditure which was not absolutely essential and delayed recruitment of vacant posts in order to minimise the deficit. We are maintaining strict control of spending, strengthening other aspects of fundraising, and putting more effort into the recruitment of new supporters by staff and volunteers on nature reserves.

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 deficit means we have had to use some of the unrestricted reserves accumulated in the past to finance current year activities. The unrestricted fund 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.

### **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 benefit. 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

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<sup>1</sup> The 2015 surplus has been re-stated from last years' published accounts to reflect changes in the accounting standards introduced this year.

# THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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reflecting expected cash requirements over the lives of the projects to which they relate. The Trust employs no financial instruments, so does not require a policy to determine their application.

### **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. 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 Council and Executive are confident that the Trust has appropriate policies and procedures in place:

- Risks related to performance by Trust personnel:
  - Loss of key personnel
  - Non-compliance with regulations of major funder
  - Welfare of children and vulnerable adults
  - Breaches of health and safety systems, processes or regulations
- Risks related to the resources deployed by the Trust:
  - Decline in grant funding sources
  - 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:
  - Economic downturn
  - Decline in public sector support for natural environment
  - Loss of agri-environmental support under CAP reform or loss of the Nature Directives following UK withdrawal from the EU
  - Changes in development planning regimes
  - Climate change and natural disasters
  - Competitor pressure

Whilst the Council and Executive 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. Policies and procedures are periodically monitored and reviewed as part of the Trust's risk assessment and internal control practice.

### **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 the Trustees have decided it is prudent to exclude these assets from the target. The target has been set in order to provide a sound degree of resilience should circumstances change and also enables 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 3.3 months which is lower than the target, but above the 3 months which Trustees regard as the minimum acceptable

# THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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level The Trustees have set a budget for the forthcoming year to deliver a surplus and thus move the organisation towards its target cover.

### **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 2016 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 and possibly more in the years to come. 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 of Cambourne, Houghton Regis Quarry, and Trumpington Meadows near Cambridge. At the latter, we are working with the housebuilders, Barratt Homes, who will be paying for Trust memberships for home buyers for a period during the coming year. We are working with our corporate member, Prologis, at Lilbourne Meadows near Daventry and in Bedfordshire where there is considerable scope for creating or restoring high value wildlife habitats, while securing income for the Trust. Pressures of development will continue in our area, so there will be many more opportunities in the future.

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.

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 purchase of Godmanchester Gravel Pits, will continue with the development of the Godmanchester reserve and at our education centre at Paxton Pits.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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The Trust continues to work with landowners 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, serving on working groups, leading initiatives, piloting new schemes and sharing good practice with other Trusts.

**How does the charity make decisions?**

The Trustees approve an annual operating budget for the forthcoming year and the Executive produces quarterly forecasts to inform and enable effective management. All major projects are subject to business cases presented to Trustees who critically review, and only permit to proceed, when convinced both that they would be an 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 the remuneration.

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

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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**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;
- 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.

**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  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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

The members of Council 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 Council have confirmed that they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as members of 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 to 25) in their capacity as company directors.

By order of the Board

*Derek Langslow*

*12/9/16*

.....  
Dr Derek Langslow  
Chairman of Council

**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 2016 set out on pages 29 to 52. 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 2016 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.



13/9/16

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

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 2016**

	Notes	Unrestricted Income £	Restricted Income £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
<b>Incoming and endowments from:</b>					
Voluntary income	2	1,456,042	134,450	1,590,492	1,910,254
Charitable activities	3	1,082,062	1,804,121	2,886,183	3,177,831
Bank Interest	4	32,982	8,774	41,756	41,552
		<u>2,571,086</u>	<u>1,947,345</u>	<u>4,518,431</u>	<u>5,129,637</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising Funds		774,079		774,079	818,353
Charitable activities		2,624,732	1,428,678	4,053,410	4,153,565
Total	5	<u>3,398,811</u>	<u>1,428,678</u>	<u>4,827,489</u>	<u>4,971,918</u>
Profit/(Loss) on disposal of fixed assets		4,000	583	4,583	(9,577)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<u>(823,725)</u>	<u>519,250</u>	<u>(304,475)</u>	<u>148,142</u>
Transfers between funds		701,695	(701,695)	-	-
<b>Net Incoming resources before other recognised gains or losses</b>		(122,030)	(182,445)	(304,475)	148,142
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets			-	-	135,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(122,030)</u>	<u>(182,445)</u>	<u>(304,475)</u>	<u>283,142</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		2,916,109	17,487,197	20,403,306	20,120,164
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	18	<u>2,794,079</u>	<u>17,304,752</u>	<u>20,098,831</u>	<u>20,403,306</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 of the Companies Act 2006 is the net incoming resources before unrealised losses/gains.

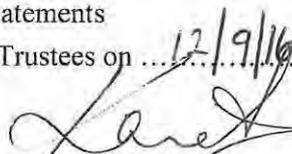
The notes on pages 33 to 52 form part of these financial statements

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
BALANCE SHEET  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

	Notes	2016		2015	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible assets (Page 32)			4,419,255		4,457,320
Heritage assets	9		13,411,394		13,307,175
Intangible assets	10		178,278		243,106
<b>Total fixed assets</b>			<u>18,008,927</u>		<u>18,007,601</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks		25,170		35,558	
Debtors	11	1,062,564		1,093,352	
Loan to associated organisation	12	35,000		35,000	
Investments		-		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>2,575,214</u>		<u>3,159,347</u>	
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>3,697,948</u>		<u>4,323,257</u>	
			21,706,875		22,330,858
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(793,439)		(970,417)	
Net assets before pension provision			<u>2,904,509</u>		<u>3,352,840</u>
Pension provision			-		-
<b>Net current assets or liabilities</b>			<u>2,904,509</u>		<u>3,352,840</u>
<b>Creditors:</b>					
Amounts falling due after one year	14		(789,393)		(932,325)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	15		(25,211)		(24,810)
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>			<u>20,098,832</u>		<u>20,403,306</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	16		17,304,752		17,487,197
Unrestricted funds	17		<u>2,794,080</u>		<u>2,916,109</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	18		<u>20,098,832</u>		<u>20,403,306</u>

The notes on pages 33 to 52 form part of these financial statements

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Trustees on ... 12/9/16 ... and signed on their behalf by

  
Karen Silcock - Honorary Treasurer  
Company Registration No. 02534145

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>(327,901)</b>	<b>323,548</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	41,756	41,552	
Interest element of hire purchase contracts	(921)	(1,379)	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(288,562)	(290,164)	
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(247,727)</b>	<b>(249,991)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Capital element of hire purchase contracts	(8,505)	10,076	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		<b>(8,505)</b>	<b>10,076</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>(584,133)</b>	<b>83,634</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		3,159,347	3,075,713
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>25</b>	<b><u>2,575,214</u></b>	<b><u>3,159,347</u></b>

THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

SUMMARY OF FIXED ASSETS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

Tangible assets

	Freehold property	Investment properties	Land in tenure	Improvements	Conservation equipt, hides, fencing etc.	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost or valuation</b>									
At 1 April 2015	1,547,289	-	2,169,148	926,037	1,156,547	38,474	392,320	75,634	6,305,449
Additions	-	-	-	79,609	66,404	-	38,330	-	184,343
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	(14,550)	-	(14,550)
Transfers - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Heritage Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation									
At 31 March 2016	1,547,289	-	2,169,148	1,005,646	1,222,951	38,474	416,100	75,634	6,475,242
<b>Depreciation</b>									
At 1 April 2015	358,526	-	-	250,557	776,836	35,708	359,747	66,755	1,848,129
On disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	(14,550)	-	(14,550)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	30,990	-	-	50,172	108,550	863	27,365	4,468	222,408
Revaluation									
At 31 March 2016	389,516	-	-	300,729	885,386	36,571	372,562	71,223	2,055,987
<b>Net book value</b>									
At 31 March 2016	<b>1,157,773</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,169,148</b>	<b>704,917</b>	<b>337,565</b>	<b>1,903</b>	<b>43,538</b>	<b>4,411</b>	<b>4,419,255</b>
At 31 March 2015	1,188,763	-	2,169,148	675,480	379,711	2,766	32,573	8,879	4,457,320

The net book value of motor vehicles includes £6,746 (2015 - £9,638) in respect of assets held under hire purchase contracts. The depreciation charge in respect of such assets amounted to £2,892 (2015 - £1,927).

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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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 2016 are the first financial statements of The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire prepared in accordance with FRS102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The date of transition is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, the impact on the transition is detailed on note 27. The accounts have been prepared 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 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  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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**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 such 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  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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**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. In the light of the pending CAP review, the Trust has adopted a conservative estimate of useful life ending in March 2016. On 1 January 2015, the single farm payments entitlements were replaced with Basic Scheme Payments. The useful life of the Basic Scheme Payments entitlements is deemed to be until the end of 2018. The Amortisation of the entitlements is calculated to write off the cost in equal annual instalments over the estimated useful life.

**1.9 Stocks**

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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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 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

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**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  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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**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 gratefully received a donation of books (circa 50 in number) which have been integrated into the Library at our Lings House site in Northamptonshire. The donation was not subject to valuation as their cost price was estimated at £700 and their used valuation was deemed immaterial.

**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  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

<b>2 Voluntary income</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations and sponsorships	116,526	124,594	241,120	317,059
Legacies	72,634	9,378	82,012	356,633
Subscriptions and Gift Aid	1,259,332	478	1,259,810	1,229,687
Grants received of a general nature	7,550		7,550	6,875
	<u>1,456,042</u>	<u>134,450</u>	<u>1,590,492</u>	<u>1,910,254</u>

<b>3 Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
RPA Grants received for a specific purpose	591,205	-	591,205	668,086
Grants received for a specific purpose	49,213	565,929	615,142	776,024
Service level agreements	145,477	602,017	747,494	717,917
Landfill tax credits	-	462,405	462,405	452,618
Other income	295,867	151,421	447,288	478,996
Appeals	300	22,349	22,649	84,190
	<u>1,082,062</u>	<u>1,804,121</u>	<u>2,886,183</u>	<u>3,177,831</u>

Included in the above grants received for a specific purpose:

2016: £769,010 (2015: £868,996) are derived from government sources and £64,828 is released from deferred income (2015: £16,207).

2016: £311,120 (2015: £501,337) are derived from Heritage Lottery Fund.

<b>4 Bank Interest</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest received income	32,982	8,774	41,756	41,552

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

**5 Total expenditure**

	Staff costs	Other direct costs	Support	Governance	2016	2015
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	314,192	273,585	176,734	9,568	774,079	818,353
Nature reserve management	684,799	1,237,285	385,202	20,856	2,328,142	2,341,185
Wider countryside	274,566	84,704	154,445	8,362	522,077	698,953
Partnership projects	302,405	157,545	170,104	9,209	639,263	579,768
Education & Community	267,599	137,653	150,526	8,149	563,927	533,659
	<u>1,843,561</u>	<u>1,890,772</u>	<u>1,037,011</u>	<u>56,144</u>	<u>4,827,488</u>	<u>4,971,918</u>

The 2015 comparative figures have been restated using the same basis of cost allocation as 2016 costs

Total resources expended are stated after charging :

Auditors Remuneration - audit	13,250	10,000
Depreciation of fixed assets	222,408	238,672
Amortisation of intangible assets	64,828	57,987
Restatement of assets acquired by merger in 1992	-	135,000
Profit/(loss) on sale of fixed assets	4,583	(9,577)
Amounts payable under operating leases	38,138	33,719

THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

6 Analysis of Support Costs

	Fundraising	Nature reserve management	Wider countryside	Partnership projects	Education & Community	Costs	Support Depn	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Communications	23,483	51,183	20,522	22,602	20,001	137,791		137,791
Management	49,013	106,827	42,832	47,175	41,745	287,592		287,592
Finance & Administration	52,128	113,617	45,554	50,173	44,398	305,401	469	305,870
Premises	25,655	55,915	22,419	24,692	21,850	116,599	33,932	150,531
HR	13,461	29,339	11,763	12,956	11,465	78,984		78,984
IT	12,994	28,321	11,355	12,506	11,067	75,452	791	76,243
	176,734	385,202	154,445	170,104	150,526	1,001,819	35,192	1,037,011
Governance	9,568	20,856	8,362	9,209	8,149	56,144		56,144
	186,302	406,058	162,807	179,313	158,675	1,057,963	35,192	1,093,155

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 2016**

**7 Staff costs**

	2016	2015
	£	£
The movement in the year is after charging:		
Salaries and wages	2,187,446	2,211,787
Social security costs	188,823	189,514
Other pension costs	121,416	124,285
	<u>2,497,685</u>	<u>2,525,586</u>

**Employees and volunteers**

Headcount average number of employees:	<u>105</u>	<u>108</u>
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The F.T.E. average number of employees, analysed by function was:

Nature reserve management	27	27
Wider countryside	11	14
Partnership projects	11	12
Education	10	11
Central support services	17	16
Fundraising and donor development	6	6
Marketing and membership services	5	5
	<u>87</u>	<u>91</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 (£361 in 2015)

One employee received emoluments of between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2015: none).

Total remuneration of key management personnel in the period was £241,879 (£205,160 for 2015)

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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**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 £85,627 (2015 - £96,212) for Capita pension scheme and £35,789 (2015 - £28,073) 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. Contributions paid into the Plan up to and including September 2001 were converted to defined amounts of pension payable from Normal Retirement Date. From October 2001 contributions were invested in personal funds which have a capital guarantee and which are converted to pension on retirement, either within the Plan or by the purchase of an annuity. The rules of the Plan allow for the declaration of bonuses and/or investment credits if this is within the financial capacity of the Plan assessed on a prudent basis. Bonuses/investment credits are not guaranteed and are declared at the discretion of the Plan's Trustee. 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 2016**

**9 Heritage assets**

**Five year summary of heritage asset transactions.**

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost brought forward	13,307,175	10,450,964	10,023,906	8,559,738	7,580,281
Purchases in year	104,219	1,794	2,847	392,254	19,155
Transfer from land in tenure and freehold property	-	2,719,417	424,211	1,071,914	960,302
Restatement of Assets values acquired by merger in 1992	-	135,000			
Disposals					
Cost carried forward	<u>13,411,394</u>	<u>13,307,175</u>	<u>10,450,964</u>	<u>10,023,906</u>	<u>8,559,738</u>

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 held as a nature reserve. The policy for acquisition, disposal and maintenance of such land is outlined in the Trustees' report.

Acquisitions in the four 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**

	2016	2015
	£	£
Intangible assets as at 1 April b/fwd	243,106	83,560
Entitlement to Basic Payments Scheme		259,313
Amortisation of Single Farm Payments		(83,560)
Amortisation of Basic Payments Scheme Entitlements	(64,828)	(16,207)
Total intangible assets as at 31 March 2016	<u>178,278</u>	<u>243,106</u>

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

The useful life of the Basic Scheme Payments entitlements is deemed to be until the end of 2018. The Amortisation of the entitlements is calculated to write off the cost in equal annual instalments over the estimated useful life. The balance of £178,278 represents 2 years 9 months remaining until 31 Dec 2018.

**11 Debtors**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	416,787	627,522
Prepayments and accrued income	645,777	465,830
	<u>1,062,564</u>	<u>1,093,352</u>

Included in accruals and deferred income is rental income of £22,967 which has been received but does not relate to the period.

**12 Loan to Associated Organisation**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	468,240	508,625
Taxation and social security	63,488	47,370
Other creditors	33,811	17,709
Obligations under hire purchase agreements	12,076	16,361
Accruals and deferred income	215,824	380,352
	<u>793,439</u>	<u>970,417</u>

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

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

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred income (Luton Guided Busway)	664,950	738,834
Deferred income (BPS Entitlements)	113,450	178,278
Obligations under hire purchase agreements	10,993	15,213
	<u>789,393</u>	<u>932,325</u>

**Deferred income analysis**

In more than one year but not more than two years	138,711
In more than two years but not more than five years	293,651
In more than five years	357,031

**15 Provisions for liabilities and charges**

	<b>Provision of Clawback for RPA Payments</b>
	<b>£</b>
Provisions for Liabilities and Charges as at 1 April 2015	24,810
Release of Provision to equal 10% of BPS Income received in year ended 31st March 2016	401
Provision for Liabilities and charges as at 31 March 2016	<u>25,211</u>

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

**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 any unspent 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.

	<b>Balance at 31 March 2015 £</b>	<b>Incomings £</b>	<b>Outgoings £</b>	<b>Gains/losses &amp; Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2016 £</b>
Land purchase fund	14,954,365	100,237	-	-	15,054,602
Great Fen	693,124	59,165	263,671	-	488,618
Luton Guided Busway	820,926	-	82,022	-	738,904
Other projects	1,018,782	365,355	361,509	-	1,022,628
	<u>17,487,197</u>	<u>524,757</u>	<u>707,202</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,304,752</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**

	<b>Balance at 31 March 2015 £</b>	<b>Incomings £</b>	<b>Outgoings £</b>	<b>Gains/losses &amp; Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2016 £</b>
General funds	2,916,109	-	-	(122,029)	2,794,080
	<u>2,916,109</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(122,029)</u>	<u>2,794,080</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 2016**

**18 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Freehold Property	1,157,773	-	1,157,773
Land in Tenure	-	2,169,146	2,169,146
Other fixed assets	173,450	918,887	1,092,337
Heritage assets	525,938	12,885,456	13,411,394
Intangible fixed assets	178,278	-	178,278
Loan to associated organisation	35,000	-	35,000
Stock and work in progress	25,170	-	25,170
Debtors	839,835	222,729	1,062,564
Cash at bank and in hand including short-term	495,198	2,080,016	2,575,214
Current liabilities	(486,908)	(306,532)	(793,440)
Creditors due after more than one year	(124,443)	(664,950)	(789,393)
Provision for liabilities and charges	(25,211)		(25,211)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>2,794,080</b>	<b>17,304,752</b>	<b>20,098,832</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 2016 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 2016**

**20 Financial Commitments - Operating Leases**

At 31 March 2016 the Trust was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases in the year to 31 March 2017:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year	25,724	15,224	752	208
Between two and five years	42,000	0	2,445	0
In over five years	840,000	6,000	0	0
	<u>907,724</u>	<u>21,224</u>	<u>3,197</u>	<u>208</u>

The Trust has a 100 year lease, commenced in March 2001, 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 service level agreement runs for 5 years and ends on 31 March 2018.

**21 Financial Commitments - Finance Leases**

At 31 March 2016 the Trust was committed to making the following payments under Finance leases in the year to 31 March 2017:

	Motor Vehicles	
	2016	2015
	£	£
Finance leases which expire:		
Within one year	4,694	11,662
Between two and five years	3,161	7,855
In over five years		
	<u>7,855</u>	<u>19,517</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 £27,944 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

No Trustee nor any person connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2015 - £nil).

During the year no Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses (2015 - £361).

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

**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**

	2016	2015
	£	£
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	(350,813)	116,168
Depreciation of tangible assets	222,408	238,672
Depreciation of intangible assets	64,828	99,767
Luton Guided Busway	(73,884)	(68,690)
Basic Payments Scheme	(64,828)	(16,207)
Interest Element of finance leases	921	1,379
Profit/(loss) on disposal of tangible assets	4,583	
(Increase)/Decrease in stock	10,388	7,439
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	30,788	(157,076)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors within 1 year/Provision for liabilities and charges	(172,292)	102,096
<b>Net cash inflow from operating activity</b>	<u>(327,901)</u>	<u>323,548</u>

**25 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2016	2015
	£	£
Cash in hand	1,085,431	1,046,091
Deposits on less than 3 month notice	1,489,783	2,113,256
	<u>2,575,214</u>	<u>3,159,347</u>

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

**26 Reconciliations on adoption of FRS 102**

<b>Reconciliation of total funds</b>	<b>1 April 2014</b>	<b>31 March 2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Total funds reported under previous UK GAAP	20,120,165	20,445,086
Adjustments arising from transition to FRS 102:		
Fully amortise SFP entitlements	-	(41,780)
Recognition of BPS entitlements as at 1.1.15 (3 months amortisation)	-	(16,207)
Release of BPS entitlements for 3 months from 1.1.15 to 31.3.15	-	16,207
Total funds reported under FRS 102	<u>20,120,165</u>	<u>20,403,306</u>

**Reconciliation of net movement in funds**

	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>
Net movement in funds under previous UK GAAP	324,921
Adjustments arising from transition to FRS 102:	
Fully amortise SFP entitlements	(41,780)
Net movement in funds under FRS 102	<u>283,141</u>

**Transition to FRS102 accounting standard**

The trust adopted the new accounting standard from the commencement of FY2015/16. As a result an Intangible asset relating to Entitlements under the Rural Payments Agency Single Payments Scheme (SPS) and the replacement Basic Payments Scheme (BPS) have been added into the Balance sheet at market value. As the SPS was replaced by the BPS 1st January 2015, amortisation has been included over the BPS lifetime of 4 years. The accounts for 2014/15 have been restated to reflect this additional aspect.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

**27 Comparative Information - Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2015 Total funds £
<b>Incoming and endowments from:</b>			
Voluntary income	2,391,924	186,416	2,578,340
Charitable Activities	500,542	1,992,996	2,493,538
Bank Interest	30,911	10,641	41,552
	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,923,377</u>	<u>2,190,053</u>	<u>5,113,430</u>
<b>Expenditure On:</b>			
Raising Funds	815,218	-	815,218
Charitable activities	2,517,597	1,622,897	4,140,494
	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>3,332,815</u>	<u>1,622,897</u>	<u>4,955,712</u>
Profit/(Loss) on disposal of fixed assets	(3,050)	(6,527)	(9,577)
<b>Net income/Expenditure</b>	<u>(412,488)</u>	<u>560,629</u>	<u>148,141</u>
Transfers between funds	431,153	(431,153)	-
<b>Net incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses</b>	<u>18,665</u>	<u>129,476</u>	<u>148,141</u>
Other gain/(losses)	-	135,000	135,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<u>18,665</u>	<u>264,476</u>	<u>283,141</u>
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2014	2,897,444	17,222,721	20,120,165
<b>Balances carried forward at 31 March 2015</b>	<u>2,916,109</u>	<u>17,487,197</u>	<u>20,403,306</u>

**28 Transfers 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. During the last year a detailed analysis of all the restricted funds was undertaken and a more accurate allocation of assets between the funds was ascertained. As a result a further transfer between restricted and unrestricted funds was required, which is included in this year's overall figure.