

# **TEES VALLEY WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

(Company Limited by guarantee – not having a share capital)

## **Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts**

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Registered charity number 511068

Company Registered in England: Number 1528307

# Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

## LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	John Dear Keith Hissitt Mark Fishpool Jackie Henderson Julie Mason Mike McNulty Brian Nicholson Alan Simkins Paul Swalwell Siobhan Callaghan Anne Johnson Lynne Hammond Ian Solomon	Chair Secretary Treasurer
<b>Chief Executive</b>	Jeremy Garside	
<b>Charity number</b>	511068	
<b>Company number</b>	1528307	
<b>Registered office</b>	Margrove Heritage Centre Margrove Park Saltburn TS12 3BZ	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.teeswildlife.org">www.teeswildlife.org</a>	
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Draycott & Kirk LLP Chartered Accountants Cleveland House 92 Westgate Guisborough TS14 6AP	
<b>Bankers</b>	Barclays Bank PLC PO Box 235 Stockton on Tees TS17 6YJ	CAF Bank Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4TA

CAF Bank is a subsidiary of the Charities Aid Foundation

# **Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

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The trustees, who are also the directors of Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Limited for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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 UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024

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The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016).

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

#### Summary of Activities in 2023/24

The Tees Valley Wildlife Trust's focus is on the protection and restoration of wildlife in one of the most nature-depleted regions of the world. Achieving this requires action for rare and threatened wildlife species and their habitats. It also requires action to address the many threats to wildlife, many of which result from people's attitude and behaviour. People are key to nature's recovery, we need nature more than ever and yet we are increasingly disconnected from the natural world.

The Trust's work encompasses both the conservation of wildlife and the engagement of people with the natural world. Central to this is demonstrating the essential role that nature plays in issues as varied as the climate crisis, plant pollination and people's health and wellbeing.

The following highlights reflect the breadth of activity and the achievements made by the Trust during the year.

- Restoration of Lazenby Bank

In the winter of 2023, an extensive area of some 20 hectares of dense conifers were cleared from the Trust's Lazenby Bank nature reserve. The Trust purchased the 80 hectare woodland at Lazenby Bank in 2018, with a generous grant from Biffa Award. Much of it is covered by broadleaved trees with a rich ground flora and prolific displays of bluebells through the spring months.

In contrast, some parts of the reserve contained dense conifer plantation. Here the woodland floor was dark all year round and offered little scope for flowering plants and pollinating insects. Recent hot, dry summers had seen outbreaks of fire in these areas, too and this added to the urgency of restoring and maximising the ecological integrity and resilience of this incredible nature reserve.

Conifer removal from the site's steep slopes via narrow tracks proved to be a complex and disruptive operation. Nonetheless, a significant area of land has been opened up for renewal as broadleaved woodland. Around half of this had been identified as ancient or ancient re-planted woodland and is therefore a national conservation priority for restoration

- Nature education

700 children took part in school visits to our nature reserves during the year, enjoying activities such as pond dipping and bug hunting and inspiring them through contact with the natural world. The Trust places a high degree of importance on environmental education, particularly where this takes place outdoors. We are concerned by the increasing disengagement of children from the nature, which consequently reduces their physical activity, freedom and experiences. This has serious implications for the way people might care for and respect the environment in the future.

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We also delivered 26 teacher training sessions during the year, knowing that the only way to extend our reach to children and young people is by ensuring that teachers and schools are able to deliver the best quality outdoor learning themselves.

- East Cleveland hedges

During the year, we helped landowners in East Cleveland to plant 1000 metres of new hedgerow. Hedge planting was not a planned outcome of our Wildlife at the Edges project, which engaged communities in planning nature's recovery by looking at the marginal habits; field edges, hedges and verges of East Cleveland. But the project became a catalyst for action by communities and landowners and we brought them together to make a lasting difference for wildlife in the rural landscape.

- Newt ponds

In 2023/24, the Trust excavated 12 large wildlife ponds in various sites across the Tees Valley. Ponds support a vast array of wildlife, not just pond-life such as frogs, toads and diving beetles, but also by providing freshwater for a wide variety of birds and animals. They are one of the natural features that has been in severe decline across the Tees Valley for decades and their loss increases pressure on wildlife that is already in decline.

Our ponds were created in our capacity as delivery partner in Natural England's District Level Licencing Scheme for great crested newts. It brings the total number of large ponds we have installed in the last three years to 42. Monitoring shows that these benefit all sorts of wildlife in addition to the threatened great crested newt.

### REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST OBJECTIVES

- *Protecting and restoring nature*

In last year's report we described how the Trust was planning to engage with the production of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the Tees Valley. Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new approach to setting priorities for nature at a local level in England which were introduced by the Environment Act in 2021. We believe that these strategies will be key to establishing priorities for nature with support through new financial and legal measures including Biodiversity Net Gain, Nutrient Neutrality and Environmental Land Management Schemes. They will also align the efforts of the government agencies, local government and voluntary sector organisations which work in our area.

Through the past year we worked through the Tees Valley Nature Partnership, firstly to ensure a local lead authority could be identified for the Strategy and then to clarify how the Nature Partnership might best support its development and production. Strategy production will be ongoing through 2024/25.

Last year's report also described how we manage our nature reserves as building blocks for nature's recovery as well as spaces for people to reconnect with nature. We said that Portrack Marsh is one of our most important reserves for wildlife and people, located at the very centre of the Teesside conurbation and that during the year we wanted to launch a new initiative around this flagship reserve.

Ownership of the land at Portrack Marsh is divided between the Trust and the Northumbrian Water Group and at the start of 2023, Northumbrian Water extended a long term partnership arrangement with the Trust to support a full time conservation officer working at the reserve as well as contributing to conservation enhancements at the company's other landholdings in the Tees Valley.

# Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024

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This generous initiative enables the Trust to deliver a variety of regular tasks ranging from reedbed management to providing feeding habitat for wading birds, vegetation maintenance on a common tern nesting island and replacing sand in the artificial sand martin nesting wall. It has also allowed the Trust to establish a variety of regular volunteering activities at the reserve to assist with conservation tasks, giant hogweed control and footpath repairs.

In addition, this regular presence on site has begun to build relationships with regular visitors and to support educational and wellbeing sessions for groups from the surrounding area.

- ***People taking action for nature***

In 2023, we described our long term strategy for connecting people with wildlife, with the long term objective that 1 in 4 people might be active for nature by 2030. In order to achieve this, we need to support community-led activities, while still supporting those in society who are least able to act or who suffer most from a disconnection from nature.

Last year, we had started new activity with communities in East Middlesbrough with support from *You've Got This* which is a Sport England initiative tackling health conditions associated with low levels of activity. Through 2023/24 we continued to build on work at Greystone Wood, a sizeable area of woodland on the edge of Grangetown with significant problems and potential associated with its location alongside one of the Tees Valley's most challenged communities. A programme of conservation work was coordinated by the Trust and involved Council work teams and an expanding group of local volunteers, now calling themselves the Greystone Foresters. The group was supported with training in First Aid and in the production of publicity materials to help their cause.

Additional funding was secured from the Tees Valley Community Foundation enabling us to deliver *Nature Comes to Grangetown* a mini-festival in August, which provided a focus for a range of organisations wishing to support the area. Over 650 local people took part in a variety of outdoor activities and a programme of family wildlife events.

For the past three years, the Trust has been using its community engagement approach to support conservation at the coast. A dedicated Wilder Coast Project Officer, was engaged to harness the public's love for the varied and beautiful coast between Teesmouth and Staithes, and use this to address a number of conservation issues.

Project officer activity included work to support the protection of internationally important populations of coastal birds which depend on the intertidal habitats for food. These suffer from recreational disturbance, particularly from dog walking. Increasing awareness of the harm that can be caused and promoting behavioural change has been key to ensuring survival of these birds.

In a similar vein, the project sought to engage with communities to address other threats to marine and coastal wildlife including plastic waste, sewage and litter. While these are often perceived to be the result of distant corporate and regulatory concerns, there is still much for local people to do in terms of their own consumption and waste disposal.

The project operated through a series of walks, talks, coastal workshops, activities, events and social media campaigns. More than 3500 people pledged to personal actions to reduce pressure on coastal and marine wildlife.

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024

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- ***Nature-based solutions***

In our 2023 report we said that we would continue to demonstrate the central role that nature plays in wider environmental issues including the climate crisis, air pollution, soil protection, managing water, plant pollination and making a positive change to people's physical and mental health.

Our Climate Action Middlesbrough project team has the objective of using every element of green land (parks, school grounds, cemeteries, road verges, and general greenspace) to improve carbon sequestration and as a network to improve nature's recovery and permit movement of species in response to a changing climate.

During the winter season of 2023/4, they planted over 6000 trees, many of them with the assistance of primary school pupils. Planting was often delivered alongside the creation of school wildlife areas and incorporated new hedges, fruit trees and seating areas.

In order to establish a connected network of sites for nature's recovery, a survey of Middlesbrough's Local Wildlife Sites was completed. It assessed their condition, set out plans for management and ensures protection through policies in the next Local Plan.

Wildlife Sites in this network were also targeted for management. Bramble and scrub removal at Bonny Grove on Marton West Beck, encouraged the return of meadow species including great burnet and red campion. Grasslands at Blue Bell Beck, Middle Marsh and Sandy Flats were cut and raked to support wildflower populations.

The Trust delivers a range of ongoing programmes to support mental health and wellbeing through nature. These include work with Beverley School for Autism and the Rooted in Nature green prescribing trials with Mind. In 2023/24, we also worked with a local Community Interest Company called Going for Independence on a project which engaged people suffering from sight loss with the natural environment and wildlife of Tees Valley's coastline.

The project explored a wide range of benefits that can result from engagement with the natural world by people who faced significant challenges with gaining access to natural sites. Indoor workshops made use of collected items and explored subjects such as rockpool habitats and geology. These were followed up with assisted visits into the outdoors, sometimes requiring the use of special equipment such as all-terrain wheelchairs.

Participants reflected on a wide range of benefits that they experienced from this project including being given the opportunity to learn about complex and detailed subjects despite their physical challenges. Also the richness that the programme gave to their lives when so much of their experience had been limited to sheltered and indoor environments.

### **FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR AND LONG-TERM STRATEGIES**

The Trust has set out full details of its long-term objectives in a new Strategy 2030 "Bringing Nature Back". This also aligns with the strategic objects shared by the national federation of The Wildlife Trusts. An annual Business Plan sets out the organisation's focus for the coming year. From this, we can highlight the following objectives for 2024/25.



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## TRUSTEES' REPORT

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### *1: Nature is in recovery, with abundant, diverse wildlife*

We will assist with the production of the Tees Valley Local Nature Recovery Strategy and support local partnerships, such as the Tees Estuary Nature Recovery Partnership, to begin delivery of its objectives.

We will restore and enhance wildlife habitats and secure investment to enable the long term management of sites. We will also make efforts to acquire more land and to establish new nature reserves that help create an interconnected network for wildlife.

### *2: People are taking action for nature and the climate*

Through our Nextdoor Nature Project we will assist communities to lead local action for wildlife. We will work with teachers and youth leaders to give them the skills, knowledge and confidence to include environmental aspects of outdoor learning in their work.

Through a new project with the Junction Foundation, an organisation which working with children, young people and their families, we will support young people as key stakeholders and future custodians of our environment.

### *3: Nature is playing a central and valued role in helping to address local and global problems*

We will work with our partners to provide high quality, wildlife-rich green spaces which are accessible to all and provide natural solutions to a variety of local and global environmental issues.

We will promote action by others including our members and partners to adopt pro-nature and pro-climate behaviours.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

During 2023/24, the Trust was supported to deliver a wide range of projects and activities by grant giving bodies including the National Lottery Community Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Tees Valley Community Foundation and The Cummins Foundation. Further financial support for projects came from the Environment Agency, Natural England, Tees Valley Combined Authority and the area's five local authorities. Subscriptions from members and donations from the public continued to make an important contribution to funding the Trust's operating costs and delivering its charitable objectives.

During the year, the Trust benefited from a significant financial contribution through an Enforcement Undertaking administered by the Environment Agency. This will support conservation work at Lazenby Bank and Coatham Marsh.

In recent years, the Trust has been investigating new financial arrangements developed under the Environment Act to support nature's recovery. During 2023/24 a detailed scheme was prepared to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain at the Trust's Gravel Hole nature reserve. An agreement was made between the planning authority, a developer and the Wildlife Trust and it is expected that the project will begin in 2024/25. It is hoped that these new green finances can be applied to other sites in the Trust's ownership.

# **Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

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### **Reserves Policy**

The free reserve is an important part of the Trust's risk management process, protecting the organisation from a number of potential risks such as a short-term downturn in fundraising income or periods of high inflation. In addition, with some of the Trust's project income paid in arrears of expenditure, the free reserve is essential for managing cash-flow.

The trustees have agreed to establish a level of financial reserve that would support the operational costs of the charity for between 3 and 6 months. The funds currently available to the charity are £335,801. The trustees have reviewed the level of its free financial reserve against current staff numbers and the budgeted expenditure for the current financial year. They have concluded that this meets their requirements.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Structure and Governance**

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Limited is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission and is also a company limited by guarantee. It was founded in 1979 and was formerly known as the Cleveland Nature Conservation Trust and Cleveland Wildlife Trust. The organisation's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Anyone can become a member of the Trust.

The Council of Management of the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Limited comprises a minimum of 10 and maximum of 15 trustees, who are also the directors of the company limited by guarantee. The Council is responsible for setting policy and strategy and for approving major commitments. A Chief Executive is appointed by the Council to manage the day to day operations of the charity. Trustees are elected from the membership and all members can nominate trustees prior to the Annual General Meeting. Trustees must retire at the third AGM following their election, although they are eligible for re-election. Council may co-opt additional trustees at any time. Trustees appointed by this method must not exceed one third of its elected membership and must retire from office at the next AGM.

New trustees undertake an induction following a written procedure, to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law and the management and operation of the charity. An induction pack is provided and includes items such as the governing document, trustee minutes and audited accounts. New trustees meet key employees of the charity and have the opportunity to visit its nature reserves and current project sites. The charity encourages training for trustees where this helps them to undertake their duties.

#### **The Wildlife Trusts**

The charity is a member of the Wildlife Trusts, a federation of 46 Wildlife Trusts which cover every part of the British Islands, along with the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (charity number 207238). While each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance, The Wildlife Trusts work together collectively towards agreed strategic goals while sharing best practice, skills, and knowledge. They help each other to ensure that leadership and governance structures within Wildlife Trusts and across the movement are underpinned by robust systems that promote a culture of sharing, learning, respect, and mutual trust, so that we can optimise opportunities for change.

#### **Environmental Report**

The Trust is committed to minimising any negative environmental impacts that result from its activities as part of our contribution to tackling the climate and ecological emergency. In order to assess and address

# Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024

these impacts we completed a fourth annual audit of our carbon footprint for the year 2022/23 following the standards of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. A summary is provided below. New items are added to the protocol annually, so a comparative figure has been included to indicate trends since the baseline year.

In the past year the heating system at the Margrove Heritage Centre was upgraded. Our choice of system was heavily constrained by the location, age and condition of the building, such that no alternatives to fossil fuels were realistically available. However, the replacement system will be vastly more efficient and reduce carbon emissions accordingly.

	Baseline 2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Building Fuel (stationary combustion)	14.8	3.05	3.05	8.25
Fleet and Equipment Fuel (mobile combustion)	16.0	2.87	6.94	7.92
Purchased electricity (location based)	2.6	2.1	1.88	2.29
Purchase electricity (market based)	-	-	-	1.17
Water use and wastewater	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.01
Business travel (employees)	3.98	0.43	3.28	5.47
Travel (casual staff and volunteers)	-	0.23	1.14	0.41
Employee commuting	29.58	5.92	14.75	23.37
<b>Greenhouse gas emissions over time for categories reported on since the baseline only. (Totals given to show trends)</b>	<b>67.00</b>	<b>14.62</b>	<b>31.06</b>	<b>48.89</b>
Purchased goods				11.49
Purchases services (excluding water)				13.58
Capital goods				-
Fuel and energy related activities not included in scope 1 or scope 2				4.42
Upstream transportation and distribution				-
Waste generated in operations				6.29
Employees working from home		4.45	2.24	1.83
Upstream leased assets				
Downstream transportation and distribution				
<b>Total greenhouse gas emissions (t CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>				<b>86.50</b>

### Public Benefit

The work of the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Limited addresses threats to people and the natural world such as the unsustainable consumption of the world's natural resources and damage to the natural ecosystems which support the planet. Our report provides detail of the benefits to people's health and wellbeing that come from engagement with nature and access to natural environments. Our activities are provided for all sectors of society and our sites, which are distributed widely across the Tees Valley, are made freely available to all.

In reviewing our aims and objectives and as part of the planning of future work, the trustees have taken account of the guidance given by the Charity Commission on public benefit. Careful consideration is given to ensuring that activities consistently contribute to the charity's objectives.

# Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024

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### Investment Policy

The trustees, having regard to the financial reserves policy, have operated a policy of keeping available funds in interest bearing deposit accounts with competitive levels of interest and with ethical investment policies.

### Remuneration Policy

Our approach to remuneration is designed to ensure we can attract and retain the talented and motivated people we need to achieve our mission and deliver our strategic goals. It is applied consistently across the organisation.

The trustees aim to pay staff competitively in the not-for-profit sector within the context of affordability. Salaries are benchmarked across the Wildlife Trusts partnership and against other environmental charities working in the North East of England.

### The Management of Risk

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the organisation has a sound system of internal control to safeguard its assets and funds, and that they use their best endeavours to ensure that its policies are implemented and its aims and objectives met. For reasons of cost and practicality, the system of internal control is intended to manage rather than eliminate risks, and to give reasonable rather than absolute assurances.

The system of internal control includes:

- An annual Business Plan which is developed by the trustees and staff. This is a strategic plan which covers the aims and objectives of the organisation and is used to ensure that all activity meets with the Trust's charitable objects. The plan also sets a project programme and budget for the year
- Council reviews progress against the Business Plan and budget four times each year through management accounts and a project report.
- A Project Management System is used to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of expenditure on projects and the achievement of outputs and outcomes.
- A Risk Register is reviewed regularly during the year and is updated annually by Council
- A Health and Safety Policy and Procedures are followed. Council reviews Health and Safety issues at least every six months. External Health and Safety audits and reviews are made by the Local Authority and the Health and Safety Executive.
- A policy and detailed working procedures are followed on child protection and working with vulnerable adults. They are subject to annual update and review.

***This report was approved by the Council of Management on 25<sup>th</sup> July and is signed on their behalf by the Chair:***



**John Dear  
Chairman**

**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**  
**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT**  
**TO THE TRUSTEES OF TEES VALLEY WILDLIFE TRUST**

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I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 13 to 23.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity’s trustees, who are also the directors of Tees Valley Wildlife Trust for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The Charity’s gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Certified Accountants.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

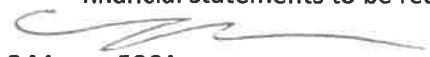
**Basis of independent examiner’s report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a ‘true and fair view’ and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

**Independent examiner’s statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities; have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

  
C Mason FCCA  
Draycott & Kirk Chartered Accountants  
Cleveland House  
92 Westgate  
Guisborough  
Cleveland  
TS14 6AP

Dated: 20/8/24

**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies		3,367	11,200	14,567	2,263
Charitable activities	3	194,232	795,857	990,089	614,883
Investments		534		534	160
Other income				-	40
<b>Total income</b>		<b>198,133</b>	<b>807,057</b>	<b>1,005,190</b>	<b>617,346</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	4	168,210	445,338	613,548	664,258
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers</b>		<b>29,923</b>	<b>361,719</b>	<b>391,642</b>	<b>(46,912)</b>
Gross transfers between funds		4,669	(4,669)	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year / Net movement in funds</b>		<b>34,592</b>	<b>357,050</b>	<b>391,642</b>	<b>(46,912)</b>
Fund balances at 1st April 2023		823,725	238,885	1,062,610	1,109,522
<b>Fund balances at 31st March 2024</b>		<b>858,317</b>	<b>595,935</b>	<b>1,454,252</b>	<b>1,062,610</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	8		827,929		811,684
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	67,404		14,350	
Cash at bank and in hand		583,365		276,932	
		<u>650,769</u>		<u>291,282</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	24,446		40,356	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>626,323</u>		<u>250,926</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>1,454,252</u>		<u>1,062,610</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	14		595,935		238,885
Unrestricted funds - general			858,317		823,725
			<u>1,454,252</u>		<u>1,062,610</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

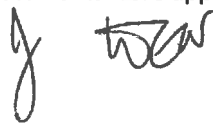
The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements. So far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

J Dear  
Chairman



Company Registration No. 1528307

# Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024

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### 1. Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Margrove Heritage Centre, Margrove Park, Saltburn TS12 3BZ.

#### Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.



# Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024

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### 1. Accounting policies

#### Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Legacies are recognised at the earliest of the date the charity is notified of an impending distribution or of the legacy being received.

Cash donations are recognised as income in the year in which they are receivable any income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Grants receivable are shown gross and are recognised in the SOFA to the extent that they relate to the period up to the year end. Where funding has been given for a period that spans the year end, the amount that relates to the following period is deferred and carried forward.

#### Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under the headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Direct charitable expenditure includes the direct costs of the activities and depreciation on related assets. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

#### Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Gifted assets are included at fair value.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land	nil
Buildings	over 50 years
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	over 12 years
Motor vehicles	over 4 years

Equipment purchases for restricted projects is written off in the year it is acquired due to the often short term nature of the projects.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the net income/(expenditure) for the year.

## **Accounting policies (continued)**

### **Pension costs**

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are written off in the year they are payable.

### **Retirement benefits**

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

## **2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

**3. Income from charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Conservation	91,248	756,756	848,004	452,711
Education	10,663	39,101	49,764	58,358
Membership	92,321	-	92,321	103,814
<b>Total income</b>	<b>194,232</b>	<b>795,857</b>	<b>990,089</b>	<b>614,883</b>

**4. Expenditure on charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	103,609	319,950	423,559	398,139
Direct costs	24,172	125,388	149,560	222,752
Premises costs	17,254	-	17,254	17,816
Office costs	14,281	-	14,281	16,284
Accountancy	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Legal fees	1,182	-	1,182	1,584
Depreciation	4,712	-	4,712	4,683
	<b>168,210</b>	<b>445,338</b>	<b>613,548</b>	<b>664,258</b>

	Conservation 2024	Education 2024	Membership 2024	Core 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
Staff costs	333,188	53,244	14,668	22,459	423,559	398,139
Direct costs	117,766	10,894	13,785	7,115	149,560	222,752
Premises costs	-	-	-	17,254	17,254	17,816
Office costs	-	-	-	14,281	14,281	16,284
Accountancy	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Legal fees	-	-	-	1,182	1,182	1,584
Depreciation	-	-	-	4,712	4,712	4,683
	<b>450,954</b>	<b>64,138</b>	<b>28,453</b>	<b>70,003</b>	<b>613,548</b>	<b>664,258</b>

Expenditure is allocated on a direct basis.

**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

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**5. Trustees**

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

**6. Employees**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
The average monthly number of employee during the year was:		
Management and administration	3	3
Charitable activities	14	15
	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>

The average number of FTE employees was:

Management and administration	1	1
Conservation	7	8
Education	5	4
Fundraising and membership	1	1
	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>

<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	381,987	358,648
Social security costs	25,433	24,226
Other pension costs	16,139	15,265
	<u>423,559</u>	<u>398,139</u>

There are no employees who received total employee benefits of more than £60000.

**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

**7. Pension costs**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of certain employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge for the year represents contributions due from the charity and amounted to £16,139 (2023 - £15,265).

**8. Tangible fixed assets**

	Land £	Buildings £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1st April 2023	740,084	96,973	18,335	23,010	878,402
Additions	-	-	17,458	3,500	20,958
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31st March 2024	<u>740,084</u>	<u>96,973</u>	<u>35,793</u>	<u>26,510</u>	<u>899,360</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>					
At 1st April 2023	-	28,276	17,982	20,460	66,718
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charged in the year	-	1,432	352	2,928	4,712
	<u>-</u>	<u>29,708</u>	<u>18,334</u>	<u>23,388</u>	<u>71,430</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>					
At 31st March 2024	<u>740,084</u>	<u>67,265</u>	<u>17,459</u>	<u>3,122</u>	<u>827,930</u>
At 31st March 2023	<u>740,084</u>	<u>68,697</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>2,550</u>	<u>811,684</u>

**9. Debtors**

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	67,404	14,350
	<u>67,404</u>	<u>14,350</u>

**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

**10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade creditors	8,977	19,104
Taxation	6,879	6,752
Other creditors	5,590	11,500
Accruals and deferred income	3,000	3,000
	<u>24,446</u>	<u>40,356</u>

**11. Financial commitments**

At 31st March 2024, the company had the following commitments under non-cancellable operating leases:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
<b>Expiry date:</b>		
Within 1 year	1,675	1,762
2 - 5 years	-	3,779
	<u>1,675</u>	<u>5,541</u>

**12. Guarantee**

The company is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The members of the company have each undertaken to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards any deficit arising in the event of the company being wound up. This guarantee applies during the period of membership and extends one year after membership ceases.

**13. Transfers between funds**

The transfers from restricted project funds to unrestricted funds represents management charges earned on projects and transfer of balances remaining on ceased projects.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

**14. Movement in funds**

	Balance at 1.4.2023 Total £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.3.2024 Total £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Conservation - main	221,336	767,928	(402,730)	1,079	587,613
Conservation - landfill	-				-
Education	17,549	39,129	(42,608)	(5,748)	8,322
	<u>238,885</u>	<u>807,057</u>	<u>(445,338)</u>	<u>(4,669)</u>	<u>595,935</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	823,725	198,133	(168,210)	4,669	858,317
	<u>823,725</u>	<u>198,133</u>	<u>(168,210)</u>	<u>4,669</u>	<u>858,317</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>1,062,610</u>	<u>1,005,190</u>	<u>(613,548)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,454,252</u>

Restricted funds are resources held by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Limited for specific purposes.

Project balances include the following:

- Conservation projects for which funds have been obtained to enable the Trust to manage and protect wildlife sites, habitats and species;
- Projects which deliver the Trust's conservation objectives that are funded through the Landfill Communities Fund. The Trust has been approved as an Environmental Body (reg. no: 310188) for the purpose of managing and distributing funds made available by landfill site operations under current legislation.
- Education projects, which are conducted with the aim of raising awareness of natural environment issues and promoting public understanding, enjoyment and involvement in nature and its conservation.

**15. The National Lottery Community Fund**

There were no funds received directly from the National Lottery Community Fund in 2023/24.

## Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024

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#### 16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Fund balances at 31st March 2024 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible assets	812,515	15,414	827,929	811,684
Current assets	63,317	587,453	650,770	291,282
Current liabilities	(17,515)	(6,932)	(24,447)	(40,356)
	<u>858,317</u>	<u>595,935</u>	<u>1,454,252</u>	<u>1,062,610</u>

#### 17. Contingent liabilities

The incoming resources of the company include grants which are subject to various terms and conditions. There is a contingent liability to repay all or part of such grants should the company breach any of the terms and conditions under which the grants are made. However, the Board are not aware of any such circumstances currently existing and therefore no provision is required.