



# Our year for wildlife

**IMPACT REPORT  
2022-23**



The  
**Wildlife**  
Trusts

Saving **Norfolk's Wildlife** for the Future

# Working together for wildlife

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It is such a pleasure to share our successes over the last year. At a time when the nature crisis can feel overwhelming, the work we do to enhance and protect Norfolk's wildlife and connect more people with nature provides such hope. None of it would be possible without the support of our members and partners, without the dedication and expertise of our staff and volunteers, and the generosity of our donors – we are incredibly grateful.

At this challenging time for wildlife, we must work together to make our voices heard. We formed an alliance with environmental organisations including the Woodland Trust and Friends of the Earth to campaign against the proposed Norwich Western Link. We also joined the UK Wildlife Trust movement to speak out about the impact of Government announcements on planning policy and farmland subsidies on Norfolk's wildlife and wild spaces.

We continued to focus on creating connections and inspiring people to care for and act on behalf of nature. Our Norfolk Claylands Wilder Connections project is a brilliant example. We worked with conservationists, landowners and local communities to connect patches of fragmented wildlife habitat across parts of South Norfolk. Another excellent example is our innovative community-focused approach to the design of NWT Sweet Briar Marshes.

Throughout this report, we refer to our new strategy – *A Wilder Norfolk for All*, to be launched later this year. It is an ambitious framework which sets out our vision, mission and key goals, underpinned by detailed action plans. In anticipation of the implementation of the strategy and in readiness to tackle the challenges ahead, we have built up financial reserves.

We will now be investing money from our reserves in strengthening the Trust's ability to deliver our strategic goals. This has also meant a focus on building a strong leadership team and investing in systems to achieve the most efficient ways of working.

I am confident and excited about how much more we can accomplish together for Norfolk's wildlife – thanks again for your support.

**Alice Liddle, Chair of Trustees**

## Our Vision

**Norfolk Wildlife Trust seeks a sustainable Living Landscape for wildlife and people**

**Where the future of wildlife is protected and enhanced through sympathetic management**

**Where people are connected with, inspired by, value and care for Norfolk's wildlife and wild spaces**



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### Trustees

#### Chair:

Alice Liddle

#### Vice-Chair:

Jeff Price

#### Treasurer:

Lyndsay Whiteman

Greg Beeton (co-opted as of 24 March 2022, elected 13 October 2022)

Steve Cale (retired 13 October 2022)

Andrew Clarke

Sam Collin

Kirstie David (co-opted as of 24 March 2022, retired 1 December 2022)

Jennie French-Constant

Ben Garrod

Glenn Houchell

Rob Lucking

Scott Pinching

Sue Roe

John Sharpe

# Year at a glance


Together, we achieved so much this year.  
Here are just a few of our highlights.



Reached **37,000** members –  
the highest in the Trust's history



Connected over **4,000** school  
children with nature



Examined **161** planning  
applications with wildlife in mind



Offered advice to improve  
**70** County Wildlife Sites for nature



Helped **37** churchyards  
welcome in wildlife



Ran over **600** events helping  
people get closer to nature



Welcomed **150,000** people  
to our Visitor Centres



**1,380** amazing volunteers  
helped us protect wildlife



Gained **3,000** new followers  
across our social media channels



# Nature reserves for people and wildlife

With many thousands of visitors each year, our nature reserves act as our heartlands, important stepping stones on our journey towards *A Wilder Norfolk for All*.

Our new 90-acre urban nature reserve, **Sweet Briar Marshes**, began to take shape this year. We were able to buy this wonderful wild space in the centre of Norwich thanks to a well-supported public appeal, which was generously match funded by project partners, Aviva.

We can now conserve and restore valuable ecological habitats and biodiversity, and importantly the location of Sweet Briar Marshes will provide city residents with daily access to nature. (see p.6)

Urban nature reserves and their collaborative management are critical to the vision of our emerging strategy – ‘to create more space for nature to thrive and inspire more people to take action for nature.’ We formed a new urban reserves team to help us achieve this ambition.

We also expanded our grazing team in order to grow this important area of work. Grazing plays a vital role in maintaining habitats, allowing a whole range of plants, insects, birds, reptiles and mammals to flourish.



A new summer beach warden post at **Holme Dunes** will further our efforts to protect beach-nesting birds. This extra support, alongside our wonderful volunteer beach wardens, contributed to an encouraging year for ringed plovers with 13 pairs fledging six chicks – a sustainable population should fledge 50 per cent of its total, so we are almost on target. In addition, nine pairs of little terns fledged six chicks. Our beach warden post was made possible thanks to funding from the Borough Council of King’s Lynn, West Norfolk Habitats

Ringed plover at Holme Dunes



Monitoring and Mitigation Fund and the ENDURE sand dunes project led by Norfolk County Council. To investigate ways to better protect vulnerable beach-nesting birds at Holme Dunes, this year we carried out an extensive consultation with the local community around access for dogs at the site.

We were pleased to receive responses from over 1,700 people, and to learn that the majority of respondents understood the issues and are in favour of some further restrictions being put in place. We will use all that we discovered to work with partners and landowners, including the Norfolk Coast Partnership, to explore a coast-wide approach to supporting vulnerable species including ringed plover, little tern and oystercatcher from 2024.

## Grazing for wildlife

Fifteen Dartmoor ponies joined our herd, grazing heathland to support conservation on sites we manage on behalf of Forestry England, under the Brecks Heath Partnership, and our own nature reserves including **East Wretham Heath**.

As selective grazers, the ponies can create a rich variety of different heights and types of vegetation, preventing delicate species from becoming shaded and overgrown.



© NWT

© Jimmy King



Natterjack toad at Syderstone Common

Creating, restoring and enhancing habitat forms a huge part of conservation work on our reserves.

Funds received from the Government's Rural Payment Agency as part of our Countryside Stewardship agreements enabled a range of conservation management to benefit wildlife throughout our reserves. This included scrub removal around neglected pingos and creation of scrapes.

Restoration work on Pat's Pool at **Cley and Salthouse Marshes** resulted in good numbers of ducks and waders throughout the winter, including up to 25 pintail and goldeneye. Avocets nested on the newly restored islands. Work was carried out to re-profile the edges of several scrapes and dykes to provide suitable habitat for bitterns, which bred again this summer after an absence of several years.

Wading birds were quick to make use of the newly created peat pools at **Roydon Common** with woodcock, jack snipe and lapwing all recorded bathing and drinking at the pools.

Creating perfect pond conditions for one of two original heathland populations of natterjack toads took place at **Syderstone Common**. This resulted in three strings of spawn laid in one of our predator-free nursery ponds, which turned into several thousand tadpoles – and many hundreds of toadlets! Site management elsewhere on the reserve promoted a diverse range of wildflowers resulting in the first record of early *Colletes* *bee*, a recent colonist of Norfolk.

A newly created platform among the trees at **Ranworth Broad** was the subject of huge excitement in Spring 2023, when a male osprey was spotted displaying and calling in our strategically placed artificial nest site. Eventually a female arrived, providing hope for the first osprey breeding success in East Anglia for over 250 years.

We had a wonderful first year at our newly purchased **Arable Plant Reserve** at Weeting Heath. Here we aim to maintain habitat in the Norfolk Brecks for the rapidly disappearing flora of arable fields. The nationally threatened fingered speedwell has thrived with 1.8 million plants recorded – the highest on record.

Thanks to money from the National Lottery Heritage Fund through the Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Landscape Partnership, we continued our work to restore ghost pingos across the Brecks. We excavated a further five Ice Age ponds at **Watering Farm**, which have been colonised by water violet – a plant likely to have been present in the dormant seedbank. Our work at Watering Farm will extend this unique habitat, which helps to buffer the existing sensitive habitats of **Thompson Common**, creating even more space for special Brecks wildlife.

Our **Foxley Wood** enclave project aims to return nearly five hectares of adjacent agricultural land back to ancient woodland. Thanks to a partnership with PSH Environmental who are contributing both financially and practically, native scrub and



Male osprey at Ranworth Broad

woodland wildflowers are already recolonising the enclave. Staff from PSH brought heavy machinery on site to reprofile essential drainage and run-off pools, while school groups and volunteers lent a hand by planting seeds gathered from the existing ancient woodland. We also created new basking areas for invertebrates and reptiles.

Visitors and reserve staff alike enjoyed some wonderful conservation successes this year. At **Trinity Broads**, bitterns bred for the first time, and we regularly saw six to eight great white egret and a good number of overwintering ducks, including rarities such as smew and red-crested pochard. The Broads and their margins are owned by Essex & Suffolk Water and managed in partnership with Norfolk Wildlife Trust, alongside others.

In the Brecks, **Weeting and Hockwold Heaths** had a great year with five pairs of stone curlews fledging seven chicks – above the productivity needed to maintain a stable population. Long-eared owls bred again at Hockwold and there was a new pair on Weeting Heath – both fledging three chicks each.

Natural England/Natural History Museum UK Barcode of Life (UKBoL) project visited Weeting Heath to collect spiders for a DNA barcoding project. Several nationally rare and scarce species were recorded but most exciting was the spider *Mastigusa macrophthalma*, constituting the first record for Norfolk.

## Bridging the gap for wildlife and people

© NWT



Beetley Meadows and Hoe Rough support five species of orchid, including green-winged orchid

A newly installed bridge over the River Whitewater between **Beetley Meadows** and **Hoe Rough** will make it easier to move cattle vital for conservation grazing, as well as improving access for visitors. The bridge was funded from a Biffa Award through the Landfill Communities Fund. Biffa's support has also enabled us to erect new livestock fencing, create several new adder hibernacula and plant five native black poplar saplings, bolstering the UK's small population of this rare species.

With additional funding from a Biffa Award Platinum Jubilee grant, we have also undertaken scrub clearance and grassland mowing to improve Beetley Meadow for scarce plants such as marsh lousewort, bog pimpernel and green-winged orchid. The project, which is now complete, also established a trail allowing visitors to enjoy both sites all year round.

## A shared vision for Sweet Briar Marshes

In September 2022, thanks to the generosity of members and supporters, we were delighted to take ownership of Sweet Briar Marshes.

Since then, we have conducted baseline ecological surveys, established a team to oversee the site, and worked with the local community to forge a joint vision for our newest nature reserve.

[Creative ideas for Sweet Briar Marshes at our family workshop session](#)

Over one thousand people shared their views about what they wanted from the reserve at local community engagement sessions, as well as via an online survey.

The community feedback we gathered will help inform the emerging masterplan for the site and surrounding area, which will be subject to further public and stakeholder engagement later this year.

We are busy putting in place everything we need to open Sweet Briar Marshes to the public as soon as possible, although work to complete the vision for the reserve will continue over the next few years. We can't wait to share this precious wild space.



© NWT/Denzil Dean

Hickling attracted several unusual birds including white-tailed plover, Eleonora's falcon, Caspian terns, red-footed falcons and glossy ibis. Bitterns and cranes continued to breed.

Silver-studded blue butterflies continue to increase in number at Buxton.

A spring hoopoe visited Hockwold, staying two days and proving a major attraction for visitors. This was the first hoopoe here since 1992.



The short barred grey marble moth was recorded at Cranberry Rough – the first county record since the 1800s.

Spoonbills returned to the heronry on our neighbour's land and were regularly seen feeding at Cley Marshes.

There have been regular sightings of the purple emperor butterfly in five of our woodland sites.

NWT landholdings cover almost **5,000** hectares

# A nature recovery network for Norfolk

At a time of crisis for nature, it is vital that we manage more land more actively for wildlife by restoring and connecting priority habitats across the county.



Habitat work has benefited great crested newts at Silfield Newt Reserve



© iStock

From the Brecks to the North Norfolk coast, we worked in collaboration with partners, landowners, our communities and volunteers to make a positive difference for wildlife throughout Norfolk.

Our completed **Norfolk Claylands Wilder Connections** project, which supported communities to improve connectivity of habitats across key parts of South Norfolk, is a perfect example of how by working together we can achieve strong and connected recovery for nature across our county. (see p.8)

**Network for Nature** is intended to address the impacts of the UK's major road network on our wildlife. Over the past year, we have improved a number of sites for wildlife thanks to this multi-

million-pound, UK-wide programme established by The Wildlife Trusts and funded by National Highways.

We conducted research into the impact pollution from the nearby A47 may be having on the wild inhabitants of **East Winch Common**. At **Silfield Newt Reserve** we carried out newt surveys, cleared scrub, as well as creating and restoring ponds as essential habitat for great crested newts. Working in partnership with the landowners, we installed fencing and will be reintroducing grazing at **Scarning Meadow** – a County Wildlife Site in the heart of Dereham. In addition, we are carrying out feasibility work to explore whether any of the bridges over the A47 and A11 that do not carry public roads could be converted into green bridges, offering

safe crossing points for wildlife. Next year, Network for Nature will see us creating new areas of open water on **Scarning Fen** and **Potters Fen**, enabling pockets of wildlife-rich mire to develop over time.

**County Wildlife Sites** (CWS) are key to our nature recovery work, providing vital habitats and stepping stones for wildlife across the county. We offered advice on over 70 sites detailing how to bring the land into the best condition for wildlife, as well as re-surveying 30 existing CWS. Up to date records help us provide accurate advice and can guide our responses to development proposals.

We also worked in partnership with Norfolk County Council to maintain and protect 112 Roadside Nature

There are now over **1,384** County Wildlife Sites covering nearly **16,000** hectares of fen, heath and woodland

Reserves, as well as expand the roadside nature reserve network. Roadside verges often contain the last remnants of ancient meadow flora, so are vital in restoring biodiversity.

Volunteers surveyed 37 churchyards as part of our **Churchyard Conservation Scheme**. This work is carried out by our 14-strong team who head out across the county to record plants and other wildlife. Information gained is sent to churches with advice on future management. Requests for these survey visits are increasing as word gets out about the importance of Norfolk churchyards in creating corridors for nature, and the meadow species such as meadow saxifrage and wild clary that grow here.

We also investigated the potential for peatland restoration across seven sites in West Norfolk as part of the **Fens East Peat Partnership**. Funded by the Government's Nature for Climate Peatland Discovery Grant Scheme, the project aimed to analyse the state of peat on sites across Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk and explore how these areas might be restored. Feasibility work has been undertaken (including assessing peat depth and condition and the installation of hydrological monitoring equipment), and initial design proposals developed for all seven sites.

## Landscape scale success – connecting the South Norfolk Claylands

Over the past 18 months we have delivered our ambitious Norfolk Claylands Wilder Connections project, funded by DEFRA's Green Recovery Challenge Fund, across targeted parts of South Norfolk. The project's focus has been on ecological connectivity: stitching together the fabric of the countryside, linking sites through the restoration of ponds, hedges, woods and associated grassland.

The dedication of volunteers, local people and project staff, and the engagement of land managers, have together led to many successes: not just in practical delivery, but also in improved understanding of the landscape and in the provision of resources to underpin future action for wildlife.

This is not the end of the story. In the context of our new strategy, we plan to build on the project's legacy, continuing to restore this fascinating but undervalued South Norfolk landscape.

- Project work undertaken on over 20 landowner sites.
- 6 km of hedges, including 24,000 saplings, planted or restored
- More than 50 ponds restored
- 15 hectares of grassland enhanced
- Over 500 trees planted
- 100+ volunteers involved
- Over 50 events delivered



Volunteers helped us plant trees and saplings



Beadlet anemone

We stepped up our **marine nature recovery work**, including engaging with partners on the protection of Cromer Shoal Marine Conservation Zone, speaking up for nature in marine planning and organising beach cleans at Cley. We recognise the need to do even more to protect marine wildlife and will be recruiting additional team members to help us.

**Norfolk Wildlife Services (NWS)** continued to provide professional services to Anglian Water, English Heritage and a variety of other developers and domestic clients, as well as undertaking ecological surveys for the Sweet Briar Marshes Discovery Phase. All profits made by NWS are donated to Norfolk Wildlife Trust for the benefit of nature conservation.



The willow warbler was one of many species recorded by NWS at Sweet Briar Marshes



# Speaking up for nature together

## Norwich Western Link

We continued to fight the proposed Norwich Western Link development on the grounds of its catastrophic impacts on a wildlife-rich landscape, home to the UK's largest known barbastelle bat super-colony.

To maximise our impact, we formed a wider alliance with environmental organisations including Stop the Wensum Link, CPRE, Friends of the Earth, the Woodland Trust, Norfolk Rivers Trust and Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society.

Together, we sent an open letter to Councillor Andrew Proctor, in objection to the road. We responded to the pre-application consultation and launched a joint petition and a public e-action to support others in sharing their objections to the development during the consultation period. We were pleased to encourage 1,482 people to take part in our e-action and over 15,000 people have signed our petition to date.

Central to our case against the road is research being carried out by Dr Charlotte Packman, an experienced conservation scientist who has studied barbastelles in Norfolk for over a decade. We employed Dr Packman to enable her to publish her findings, which spotlight the critical importance of Norfolk for this very rare bat and demonstrate that the Norwich Western

Link would spell disaster for its survival. We continued to raise concerns about the ecological impacts of the development with Norfolk County Council and the Department for Transport. We were pleased to learn that Natural England has added the Wensum Woodlands, found on the proposed route of the road, to a list of sites being considered for designation as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

## Centre Port

When we heard of Centre Port's plans for a tidal barrage on The Wash, we joined forces with partners including Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and Wild Ken Hill. Together, we urged the developer and project investors to re-think this proposal, helped raise public awareness of the disastrous impacts on nature that would result from a barrage in this location, and built an alliance that will continue to fight to protect The Wash and its wildlife.

The Norwich Western Link would spell disaster for the rare barbastelle bat



© iStock



© Ben Andrew

The Wash provides crucial habitat for wildlife such as large flocks of knot

## Defend Nature

Into autumn, we joined the UK Wildlife Trust movement in raising our grave concerns about the impact of Government announcements on planning policies and farmland subsidies on Norfolk's wildlife and wild spaces. We sent a joint statement to the media, in partnership with Norfolk-based conservation organisations and landowners, and invited the public to take part in e-actions addressed to their local MPs.

# Inspiring people to take action for wildlife

To protect and restore wildlife in the face of joint biodiversity and climate crises, we must inspire as many people as possible to care for and act on behalf of nature. We are hugely grateful to have so many members, volunteers and supporters helping us achieve this vision. We couldn't do it without you.

© NWT



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Our newly formed Wilder Wardens group made a hibernaculum at Hickling Broad

Our membership figures are steadily growing with a record-breaking 37,000 members at the start of 2023 – the highest in the Trust's long history. Our volunteer numbers jumped too, with a total of 1,380 people giving up their time to support our work. From beach cleans and guided walks, to supporting teams at our HQ in Norwich, the work our volunteers do supporting wildlife and connecting people to nature across Norfolk makes a huge difference.

Our engagement team had another fantastic year bringing wildlife closer to communities of all kinds, schools

and young people – and inspiring new audiences and the next generation of Norfolk nature enthusiasts.

**Nextdoor Nature** is all about enabling urban communities to act for nature where they live. Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to mark the Queen's Jubilee, Nextdoor Nature is being run in all 46 Wildlife Trusts around the country. We are focusing on the community surrounding Sweet Briar Marshes in the west of Norwich. We worked with residents in a sheltered housing association to plant a wildflower meadow and dig two

mini ponds in their grounds and planted pollinator patches with The Friends of Sloughbottom Park, as well as other nature-focused initiatives. Support from Norwich City Council has been invaluable in helping us connect with local community groups and residents.

We also completed our three-year long **Common Ground Youth Heritage** project, led by the Norfolk and Norwich Festival which enabled young people aged 13-25 in the east of England to develop new approaches to heritage interpretation.



The NWT team chat nature with residents at Lefroy road estate in Norwich

It was a year of new initiatives for our education team, including a nature jobs careers fair at Sheringham High School, which attracted people from all over the county, and the formation of our **Wilder Wardens** practical conservation group for young people at Hickling Broad.

We also launched **Wilder Communities**, a series of workshops aimed at encouraging individuals and communities to act for nature. Activities included skill-sharing days and workshops on how to get funding for a wildlife project.

Working with Norfolk Coast Partnership, we ran a suite of **ecological workshops** in the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The workshops enabled participants to develop the knowledge to become stewards of their local environment, plus communities could apply for small grants to aid this work.

Flying the flag for Norfolk Wildlife Trust at Blickling Half Marathon



We were pleased to welcome six new corporate **'Investors in Wildlife.'** We extend tremendous thanks to all our business partners who continue to support us so generously through subscriptions, sponsorship, donations and money raised through sales, such as Lisa Angel and Vine House Farm.

Our **Sweet Briar Marshes Appeal** reached its £600,000 target in record time, thanks to Aviva matching £300,000 of public donations pound for pound. Plans for our new Norwich nature reserve are well underway, read more on page 6. In addition to generous financial support, a record 301 Aviva staff spent over 2,100 hours volunteering on our reserves.

Fundraising across our communities continued through collections, sponsored challenges and honouring loved ones through donations in memory. This year was the first time we've been involved with the Blickling Half Marathon. We had four runners take part in the autumn marathon raising a fabulous £777 in total between them.



- Over **£4000** received through collection box donations
- Nearly **£30,000** kindly donated in memory of friends and loved ones
- Over **£650,000** received through legacy donations
- Over **70** family events, engaging with over **1,000** children
- **133** school and education visits

## Thorpe Marshes: connecting with the local community

December 2022 saw the completion of this five-year National Lottery Heritage funded project in the **Water Mills and Marshes Landscape Partnership Scheme**, at our first urban nature reserve, Thorpe Marshes.

Over the five-year project period, we organised monthly guided walks, volunteer work parties, local community days, pond-dipping sessions over the summer months, and worked with local schools. The pandemic stopped many of these activities, but in the final year we were able to get things going again and share everything that Thorpe Marshes has to offer.

We celebrated the final year at Thorpe Marshes with a successful week-long Walks Festival, and a very well attended Family Fun Day. We also hosted two visits with New Routes – a Norwich-based charity supporting refugees, asylum seekers and isolated migrants, and over the course of the year were able to develop a strong relationship with one local school in particular, Hillside Avenue Primary School.



New Routes visit to Thorpe Marshes

*'The girls were incredibly surprised to find such beauty on our doorstep'*

– **Sadhia Islam**,  
New Routes youth project co-ordinator

# Connecting everyone with nature

Restoring nature at the scale and speed required to heal our ecosystems and secure a thriving future for wildlife and people requires inclusive, welcoming and growing communities who are connected to, inspired by and acting together for nature.

© NWT/Denzil Dean



Queer Birders Norfolk visit to Sweet Briar Marshes

As our newly instated Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) commitment and policy demonstrate, we want to be a Wildlife Trust that is open to everyone – a key focus in our emerging new strategy.

Much of our work this year has been about widening access to nature and welcoming audiences who are new to us. We have had an EDI Officer in post over the past year who has driven forward this important area of work. They have identified some key actions that we can take on our journey towards becoming a truly inclusive organisation.

The focus of our collaborative approach to the design of Sweet Briar Marshes and Nextdoor Nature is to reach urban communities who may feel disconnected from the natural world, or who have historically experienced systemic barriers to accessing nature.

We established collaborative and consultative relationships with local groups such as Inclusive Norwich, a disability advocacy group and Queer Birders Norfolk, a collective for LGBTQ+ bird lovers.

We are working on developing a new youth engagement framework which aims to provide meaningful activities and career opportunities for young people aged 13 plus. We arranged GCSE and A-level work experience across our organisation, as well as our first careers fair and Wilder Wardens group. We are looking forward to developing this further to incorporate a youth voice into our work.

We ran two visits to **Ranworth Broad** for people living with dementia and their carers and facilitated two visits to **Thorpe Marshes** for New Routes – a Norwich-based charity supporting refugees, asylum seekers and isolated migrants. We also looked at how our events could be more welcoming to all, such as running inclusive rock-pooling sessions.



## Visitor Centres

Our five Visitor Centres offer us the chance to share with you what we feel about wild species and wild places and our passionate commitment to restoring Norfolk's landscape for wildlife, people and our environment.

Visitors can expect a wilder welcome at **Ranworth Broad** thanks to our Discovering Ranworth project which began this year. Recent enhancements included new wildlife habitat, the installation of a wheelchair-friendly wildlife hide, improved facilities and new signage, with more to come next year. We improved the visitor experience at **Holme Dunes** by resurfacing the access road, making for a smoother drive up to the reserve. We also supported

Norfolk County Council in carrying out repairs to the boardwalk, reinstating a route from the local village of Thornham and making it accessible to wheelchair users. A series of benches created along the route offers new 360-degree views of the reserve.

Thanks to the inclusion of posts and ropes along sections of the route, visitors are guided to stay on the path, helping to protect the sensitive dunes that are home to rare and vulnerable coastal wildlife and plants.

All three of our boats at **Hickling Broad** are now fully electric – making a trip down Hickling Water Trail even more tranquil. The new engines were installed by Cox's Boatyard, an NWT Investor in Wildlife.

The introduction of electric engines has been made possible largely by a grant from the People's Postcode Lottery and supports our sustainability strategy.



New electric boats at Hickling Broad

© Jimmy King

# Financial summary

## Independent Auditor's statement to the Trustees of Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

We have examined the summarised financial statements of Norfolk Wildlife Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023 set out below.

### Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Lovewell Blake LLP  
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor  
Bankside 300, Peachman Way, Broadland Business Park,  
Norwich, NR7 0LB

2 August 2023

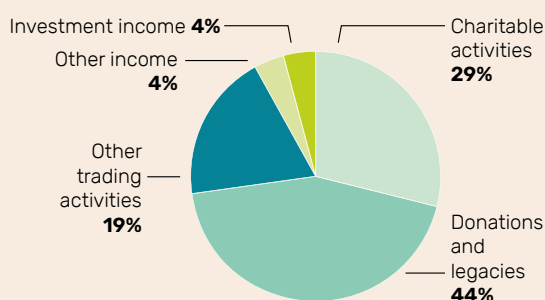
## Trustees' Statement

The auditor has issued unqualified reports on the full annual financial statements and on the consistency of the Trustees' Annual Report with those financial statements. Their report on the full annual financial statements contained no statement under sections 498(2)(a), 498(2)(b) or 498(3) of the Companies Act 2006. The full audited annual accounts were approved by trustees on 28 July 2023 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission after the Trust's AGM on 19 October 2023. The summary financial statement may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

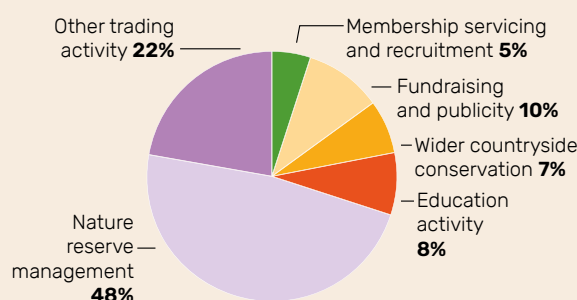
### Lyndsay Whiteman, Treasurer

For further information the full audited annual accounts should be consulted – copies are available from Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Bewick House, 22 Thorpe Road, Norwich NR1 1RY and also from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust website.

## Income



## Expenditure



## NWT Year ended 31 March 2023 (including subsidiaries)

	2023 £000's	2022 £000's
<b>Income</b>		
Donations and legacies	2,998	2,306
Charitable activities	1,959	1,952
Other trading activities	1,323	1,341
Investment income	244	112
Other income	281	212
<b>Total income</b>	<b>6,805</b>	<b>5,923</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Nature reserve management	3,228	2,710
Wider countryside conservation	478	429
Education activity	552	542
Fundraising and publicity	667	464
Other trading activities	1,449	1,264
Membership servicing and recruitment	352	237
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>6,726</b>	<b>5,646</b>
<b>Net (losses) / gains on investments</b>	<b>(205)</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>(126)</b>	<b>419</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>25,283</b>	<b>24,864</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>25,157</b>	<b>25,283</b>

## Group balance sheet as at 31 March 2023

	2023 £000's	2022 £000's
Tangible fixed assets	13,854	13,456
Investments	3,608	3,478
	<b>17,462</b>	<b>16,934</b>
Current assets:		
-Stock	96	103
-Work in progress	31	54
-Debtors	2,031	848
-Cash term deposits	3,653	4,086
-Cash in hand and at bank	2,715	4,036
	<b>8,526</b>	<b>9,127</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	831	778
Net current assets	<b>7,695</b>	<b>8,349</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>25,157</b>	<b>25,283</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>12,754</b>	<b>12,119</b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS - GENERAL</b>	<b>1,798</b>	<b>2,558</b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS - DESIGNATED</b>	<b>10,605</b>	<b>10,606</b>
	<b>25,157</b>	<b>25,283</b>

# Looking forward

© Jimmy King



2023 will be the year we officially launch our new strategy – *A Wilder Norfolk for All*. It is a bold and ambitious plan. And that is because the crisis facing our natural world is unprecedented. We know that thriving nature supports our wellbeing, mitigates global and local climate impacts such as flooding and underpins the prosperity of Norfolk's farming and tourist economy. So whilst our strategy builds on the

incredible achievements of the last 97 years, the scale of the nature crisis we face means we need to adapt and change; to do more.

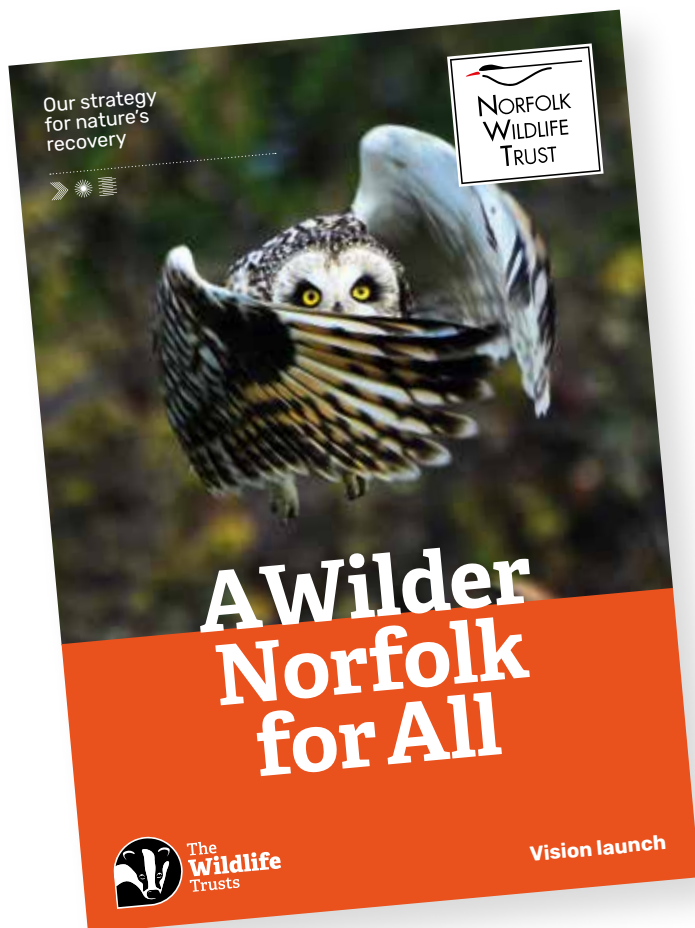
The achievements contained in this report highlight what we're doing right – inspiring hundreds of people to act for nature at our outreach sessions, events and reserves, achieving landscape scale change across Norfolk, conserving key species, being more inclusive – the list goes on.

But there are still areas where we need to be better. We need to better understand the difference our work makes through a more rigorous monitoring framework. We need to do more to reduce our own carbon footprint to meet our 2030 net zero challenge. And we need to bring in more support to fund these greater ambitions. *A Wilder Norfolk for All* tackles these areas head on and provides solutions.

Our vision is that Norfolk's nature is abundant, thriving and valued. At its heart this is a vision for the future of Norfolk which will underpin our environmental as well as social and economic prosperity. To achieve nature recovery in Norfolk, we must create more space for nature, but also encourage more people to act for nature. And all of us at the Trust, must become leaders for nature: great collaborators and influencers, working relentlessly across the county to share our vision and inspire others.

In my first 18 months in post, I have seen the incredible work that we are capable of, and the passion and desire of our staff and volunteers to rise to this challenge. So I am confident we can do this together. Thank you for your support – we couldn't do any of it without you.

**Eliot Lyne, CEO**



© Elizabeth Dack

*'Our vision is that Norfolk's nature is abundant, thriving and valued'*

# Norfolk Wildlife Trust would like to thank the following supporters in 2022/2023

## Grants and Charitable Trusts

Charitable Trusts and Grant Giving Organisations supported NWT through valuable regular contributions towards core activities and project funding including: habitat conservation as part of the Norfolk Claylands Wilder Connections, and Lost Ponds: Reinstating Ghost Pingos, and enabling people to take action for wildlife with our Nextdoor Nature initiative.

Anglian Water - Invasive Species Fund  
Biffa Award  
Constance Mary Paxton Charitable Trust  
Environment Agency & Natural England - Investment Readiness Fund  
Essex & Suffolk Water - Branch Out Invasive Non-Native Species Fund  
Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme  
The Geoffrey Watling Charity  
Green Recovery Challenge Fund  
National Highways - Network for Nature  
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Brecks Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme  
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Nextdoor Nature, through The Wildlife Trusts  
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Water, Mills & Marshes Landscape Partnership Scheme  
Paul Bassham Charitable Trust  
Postcode Lottery  
Privy Purse  
Ranworth Trust  
Robert's Woodland Trust  
Saxham Trust  
West Norfolk Habitats Monitoring and Mitigation Fund

## Discovering Ranworth Broad

Bure Valley Conservation Group  
Children and Nature fund  
Essex & Suffolk Water  
Norwich Freeman's Charity  
Ranworth Trust  
and other generous supporters

## Sweet Briar Marshes Appeal

Aviva  
Banister Charitable Trust  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
The Geoffrey Watling Charity  
Leslie Mary Carter Charitable Trust  
Liam Calvert and the Wensum community  
Lucy Galvin and the Marlpit community  
The Martin Laing Foundation  
Paul Bassham Charitable Trust

Shelroy Charitable Trust  
Spurrell Charitable Trust  
Our thanks to the many generous members and supporters who contributed to the Appeal

## Community Fundraisers

Andy Usher - chainsaw carving sales  
Brian Budds - plant sales  
Chris Durdin and Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays  
Stan Clarke - Autumn Blickling Half Marathon  
Mike Jones - Autumn Blickling Half Marathon  
Paul Atkins - Autumn Blickling Half Marathon  
Anne Dismorr - challenge participant  
Mary Delmar-Morgan - comedy event organiser  
Volunteer collection box coordinator Philip Mariner, and approximately 200 Norfolk businesses and individuals holding NWT collection boxes

## Support from Business

In addition to subscriptions to our Investors in Wildlife membership scheme we have received generous sponsorship, volunteering, delivery and promotional support from the corporate sector.

Anglian Water Services Ltd  
Aviva  
Bateman Groundworks  
Cley Spy  
Creative Image Management  
Greater Anglia  
Highway Garden Centre  
Holiday Property Bond  
John Lewis Norwich  
Lisa Angel  
Loveday and Partners  
Midwich  
N&S Wildlife & Walking Holidays  
Norfolk Chambers of Commerce  
Norfolk Hideaways  
Nu Image  
PSH Environmental  
Peter Beales Roses  
Pinkfoot Gallery  
ROAR!! Dinosaur Adventure  
Ronaldos Ices  
George Shippam Financial Planning  
Sop - Scents of Place  
Smith & Pinching  
The Travelling Naturalist  
The Bakehouse  
UK Power Networks

Vine House Farm  
Waitrose Eaton  
Waitrose Swaffham  
Wildsounds and Books  
XLT Distribution

## Partners and Supporters

Acle Garden Machinery  
Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust  
Beetley Parish Council  
Breckland District Council  
Brecks Heath Partnership  
Broads Authority  
Broads IDB  
Broadland District Council  
Bure Valley Conservation Group  
Cley Bird Club  
Courtyard Farm  
Crown Point Estate  
Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority  
Environment Agency  
Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group for Norfolk  
Forestry England  
Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse  
Gaywood Valley Conservation Group  
Holkham Estate  
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council  
Le Strange Estate  
Lynton Wines  
National Trust  
Natural England  
Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service  
Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership  
Norfolk Coast Partnership  
Norfolk County Council  
Norfolk Rivers Trust  
Norwich City Council  
Richard Osbourne Photography  
RSPB  
Seasearch East  
South Norfolk District Council  
Swallowtail Print  
University of Central London  
University of East Anglia  
Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership  
Wendling Beck Alliance  
Woodland Trust

**Our thanks to the many anonymous trusts, foundations and individual donors who support us in all our work.**

# Investors in Wildlife as of 31 March 2023

## Corporate Partners

Anglian Water Services  
Aviva  
Essex & Suffolk Water  
Greater Anglia  
PSH Environmental  
Smith & Pinching Financial Services

## Gold Members

ESE Direct  
George Shippam Financial Planning  
Loveday and Partners  
Midwich  
RWE Generation UK  
Richardson's Boating Holidays  
Swallowtail Print  
UK Power Networks  
Vine House Farm

## Silver Members

Abacus Hotels - Knights Hill Hotel & Spa  
Abacus Hotels - Le Strange Arms Hotel  
Broadland Drinks  
Canine Cottages  
Carl Zeiss Ltd  
Cozens-Hardy LLP  
Dr Stump  
Empresa  
Forest Holidays  
Harrison Group Environmental  
Heacham Manor Hotel  
Heat Different  
Herbert Woods  
Holiday Cottages  
HPB Barnham Broom

Hugh J Boswell  
IRIS Rigging  
Lisa Angel  
Lynton Wines  
Martham Ferry Boatyard  
MeiBek  
Norfolk Cottages  
Norfolk Hideaways  
Norfolk Yacht Agency  
North Norfolk District Council  
Nu Image  
Parker Communications  
Richard Osbourne Photography  
Rockthorn Ltd  
Roys (Wroxham) Ltd  
Searle's Leisure Resort  
Swarovski Optik  
The Pheasant Hotel & Restaurant  
The Travelling Naturalist

## Bronze Members

Alan Boswell & Co  
AF Group  
Barker Bros Builders  
Bateman Groundworks  
Ben Burgess Garden Equipment  
Blue Sky Leisure  
British Sugar PLC  
Brown & Co  
BTS Group  
Busseys  
Catton Print  
Cheveley Park Farms  
Cley Spy  
Clippesby Holidays

Cox's Boatyard  
Creative Image Management  
D & F McCarthy  
Daniel Connal Partnership  
Howes Percival LLP  
Interconnector (UK)  
John Innes Society  
John Lewis Partnership (Norwich)  
Larking Gowen  
M+A Partners  
Norfolk Chambers of Commerce  
Norfolk Pamments  
Orbital Foods  
Panks Engineers  
Peter Beales Roses  
Pinkfoot Gallery  
Poultec Training  
R G Carter  
ROAR!! Dinosaur Adventure  
Ronaldo Ices  
Savills  
Sibelco UK  
Sop - Scents of Place  
Sun Essences  
Tarmac  
The Bakehouse  
The John Jarrold Trust  
Thursford Collection  
Voluntary Norfolk  
Whin Hill Cider  
Wild Sounds & Books  
Woodforde's Norfolk Ales  
XLT Distribution

## Norfolk Wildlife Trust

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Email: [info@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:info@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)  
Visit: [norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Registered charity 208734

As a responsible charity we are proud of our code of conduct and our resulting record in protecting our members' details within the organisation. [norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/about-and-contact](http://norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/about-and-contact)

Charity Governance Code: During the year, we continued to implement changes to our corporate governance arrangements to bring us closer to compliance with the Code in a way that befits a charity of our size, and the nature of our activities. The Council of Trustees has several sub-groups of Council members to advise it, each with its own terms of reference which are reviewed regularly. Council added to these sub-groups and set up a Nominations Group to manage the recruitment of trustees; this Group is chaired by Andrew Barnes, a recently retired solicitor, who is independent of the Trust. The full list of sub-groups advising Council is: Finance, Audit & Risk; Remuneration; Governance; and Nominations.

