



2010-11

Trustees' Report & Annual Accounts



Kestrel - Hugh Clark

Taking Care of Sussex

Sussex Wildlife Trust Trustees' Report 31 March 2011

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011.

Reference and administrative details

Charity number: 207005
Company number: 698851

Registered and Principal Office

Woods Mill
Henfield
West Sussex BN5 9SD

Auditor

Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP.
3rd Floor
Preece House
Davigdor Road
Hove BN3 1RE

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company (the Charity) are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The elected Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mr David Streeter MBE
Honorary President

Mr David Johnson
Honorary Treasurer & Chair of Business Committee

Mrs Susan Walton
Honorary Secretary

Mr Phil Belden

Mr Pat Berry
Chairman of Council

Mr David Green
Resigned 29th September 2010

Ms Lynnette Leeson
Chair of People & Wildlife Committee

Mr Alan Malpass

Dr John Parry

Dr Alan Stewart

Dr Dawn Scott

Mr Chris Warne
Appointed 29th September 2010

Dr Rendel Williams
Chair of Conservation Committee

Vice President

Mr Robin Crane CBE

Senior Management

The Chief Executive Officer serving during the year was Dr. Tony Whitbread.

Heads of Department

Jon Whitty
Business

Janyis Watson
Conservation

Nigel Flynn
Education

Pete Crawford
Community Wildlife/Gatwick Greenspace

Sarah Hince
Marketing

James Power
Nature Reserves

Mike Russell
Adult Learning

Henri Brocklebank
Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre / Living Landscapes

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 14th October 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association Trustees are elected by the Membership for terms of three years. At the end of the three-year term Trustees are required to stand for re-election. Nominations for new Trustees are considered each year prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and are put forward for election at the AGM. When considering co-opting Trustees, Council has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an induction day. During this they meet departmental heads and other employees and also gain an understanding of their legal obligations with regard to charity and company law, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the structure of the committee system. They are advised of appropriate Trustee training courses and are encouraged to attend.

Organisation

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is governed by the Council of Trustees which is responsible for setting policies and ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Trust and the Charities Act 2006. The Chairman and Honorary officers oversee the implementation of Council's policies and plans, and authorise action on significant operational issues. The routine management of the Trust is undertaken by the Chief Executive under delegated powers.



British white cattle grazing Ebernoe Common

Ivor Chuter LRPS

The Wildlife Trusts Partnership

The charity is a member of The Wildlife Trusts Partnership (registered as the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, registered charity number 207238) which acts as an umbrella body carrying out lobbying and public relations on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts. The charity has the use of The Wildlife Trusts logo and benefits from the resources, best practice and speciality experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives the charity a national voice and profile, as well as being known by association for those unfamiliar with its particular work. However, each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance and operations.

Risk management

The Trustees have a risk management strategy in place which comprises:

- an annual review of the risks the charity may face
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate against those risks identified in the review
- the implementation of procedures designed to prevent any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the charity are:

- to survey, monitor, record and study, for the benefit of the public, sites, areas and habitats of ornithological, entomological, botanical, zoological, or scientific interest or natural beauty and to protect them from degradation and destruction and to improve their quality
- to establish, promote, maintain and manage wildlife sanctuaries or nature reserves for the conservation of flora and fauna
- to encourage the breeding of wild birds, animals, plants and insects
- to promote study and research for the advancement of knowledge in the natural sciences and to publish the results
- to educate and encourage the public in the natural sciences
- to promote good practice in furtherance of sustainable development and biodiversity

These objectives have been incorporated into the Trust's mission statement: to conserve and enhance the Sussex landscape, its wildlife and habitats and to use our knowledge and expertise to encourage people to enjoy, understand and take action to safeguard our natural heritage for future generations.

In order to achieve this aim the Trust has four main charitable objectives:

- to ensure that the conservation agenda is in the forefront of the decision-making processes for Sussex
- to encourage the enjoyment and understanding of wildlife through life-long learning
- to use its nature reserves to demonstrate nature and landscape conservation
- to maintain a record of biodiversity information for Sussex

Principal Activities

The key elements of the Trust's medium to long-term strategy are to:

- promote nature conservation through persuasion and influence
- generate the desire for a healthy, wildlife-rich environment
- deliver nature conservation through the acquisition and management of nature reserves and by achieving influence in the wider landscape
- be the centre of reference for information relating to biodiversity in Sussex

With regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit the Trustees believe that the provision of such benefit is an integral part of each of the Trust's charitable objectives. In order to achieve these, the Sussex Wildlife Trust must be an efficient and effective organisation that is well governed, well managed and which has the capacity, infrastructure and support necessary to deliver its objectives.

These are not in priority order. Below is an indication of the areas of work that are underway in order to deliver progress towards these objectives.

Promoting nature conservation through persuasion and influence

It is vitally important that we influence the decisions and actions of other people to the benefit of nature conservation. We therefore expend considerable resources influencing the policies of other organisations, for example, by inputting into local, county and national authorities. In addition, much work is done at a national and sub-national level working alongside other parts of the Wildlife Trust network. It is unlikely that we will achieve much change locally if we fail to influence policy at a larger scale. We have therefore worked with the wider Wildlife Trust network to lobby for a new Natural Environment White Paper which was published in June 2011. The development of the South Downs National Park Authority towards full operation by April 2011 was also something in which we were heavily involved and the Trust is now in a good position to maintain its influence with the National Park through our positioning in their strategic meetings. We also chair the South Downs Network, a group of non-government organisations who together act as a "critical friend" of the National Park. Much of this policy work takes place in relatively small meetings but there are also many occasions where we present the case for wildlife in talks, public meetings and through the media. In the last year we have significantly improved guidance and information on our website so that others can also make the case for nature. In this way a wide

Sussex Wildlife Trust Trustees' Report (continued)

range of people have access to the arguments to conserve nature. There is increasing evidence that individuals are gaining inspiration from our presentations and so are more confident to make the case for nature themselves.

As a small organisation perhaps the most effective way to bring about change in favour of nature conservation is by leading the agenda with ideas or new approaches. Fifteen years ago we published our "Vision for the Wildlife of Sussex" and we are continuing to develop this by promoting landscape scale approaches to nature conservation. This is becoming increasingly important with the publication of the new Natural Environment White Paper. Our landscape-scale approaches and projects developed around recognised Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (such as the West Weald Landscape Project and the Access to Nature Project in Hastings and Brighton) should provide the structure to deliver some of the themes promoted in the White Paper. These projects aim to conserve, expand and buffer the most valuable areas for wildlife, working with others to enhance nature conservation in the wider landscape.

Generating the desire for a healthy, wildlife-rich environment

Improving the wildlife and wild places of Sussex will only be possible in the long run if people are inspired to care about wildlife. A very important part of our work is therefore to encourage the enjoyment and understanding of wildlife through life-long learning and promoting active citizenship. We aim to interpret wildlife and environmental issues and celebrate the richness of wildlife through activities such as educational programmes and wildlife events held at Woods Mill and Seven Sisters Country Park, and our Forest Schools and Outreach work. This was extremely successful with over 21,000 pupils being taught by the Trust around the county. This was a major achievement and shows that we are making wildlife accessible to a large number of children and, judging by the spread of schools that we work with, we are managing to provide this in a way that is affordable to a large number of people. We also promote wildlife and environmental issues in local communities through such initiatives as the Brighton and Hove School Grounds Biodiversity Action Plan project, Access to Nature projects in Hastings and Brighton, the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership and in a new Community Wildlife project based in Lewes. These projects specifically target those areas that contain people within lower income brackets who are often isolated from the natural world so we are particularly pleased with the level of engagement there. Wildlife and environmental issues are also promoted to the general public through our work with the media and through WildCall, our wildlife information service.

Delivering nature conservation through the acquisition and management of nature reserves and by achieving influence in the wider landscape

The most direct way we can achieve nature conservation is through acquiring and looking after nature reserves. We achieve this by ensuring that we have an effective nature reserves policy guiding acquisition and management. Our nature reserves now cover over 1,400 hectares of Sussex and all are accessible free of charge. Some are remote, providing a high quality experience of nature for those who visit. Others, such as Woods Mill, are perceived by the public as major destinations to go and see wildlife, attracting thousands of visitors a year. Most of our reserves are open to the public; the few that are not only require a simple permit before a visit. We are now giving greater consideration to our reserves and how they fit into the landscape and our ability to do this has been enhanced through the generosity of the Arcadia Charitable Trust which has provided us with the resources to employ an extra Reserves Officer. This has enabled all of our nature reserves work to be a little more outward-looking. By creating partnerships with neighbours we attract a wider

catchment of interest and achieve conservation over a larger area than that covered specifically by our nature reserves. One example of this is the West Weald Landscape Project, where we aim to improve an interconnected forest network in an area. This is being supported by The Tubney Charitable Trust which will provide an income stream totalling £250,000 over a five year period. We are also implementing wider projects aimed at delivering the conservation management that is needed on our nature reserves. A key example of this is the grazing animals project where we are using our own livestock as part of our nature reserves management practices. We also manage The Sussex Wetlands Landscape Project whose aim is to enhance wetland habitats throughout Sussex. This is achieving conservation gain by promoting river and wetland enhancements and through the planting of black poplars -the rarest native tree in Sussex.

Acting as the centre of reference for information relating to biodiversity in Sussex

Biodiversity information is at the heart of nature conservation. The effectiveness of any action is poor if our information base is inadequate. The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC) has very effective projects for identifying and addressing the information need, and then using this information for the benefit of nature conservation and to develop proposals for projects in Sussex. Examples of projects delivered this year include a DEFRA funded project involving the development of an online data reporting and mapping tool for planning officers at Local Authorities across the south-east and a project done in partnership with the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre to stitch biodiversity data together for use by the new South Downs National Park Authority. The SxBRC also fosters specialist expertise through our Biological Recorders Seminar and by supporting the publication of scientific material. This free event attracts up to 200 people a year and has been running for 23 years. Work underway includes the improvement in the use of data across the south-east so good biodiversity information can underpin strategies across county boundaries. A major benefit of the SxBRC is that although we charge commercial organisations for the provision of data we are able to provide wildlife information free to the general public and, together with occasional publications produced by the SxBRC, we are able to make information on wildlife accessible to a wide range of people.

Governing, managing and running an efficient and effective organisation

The Trust is governed by a board of Trustees consisting of a maximum of 15 members, managed by the Chief Executive and supported by a staff team divided into eight departments. The building of support and funding has continued through 2010/11, with membership growing even with the current economic difficulties. For the year in question membership numbers grew by just 1.5%, marginally down on the previous year. Even a small increase such as this is no mean achievement in such uncertain times. Total income in the year was just short of £3 million thanks to a strong fundraising effort and the receipt of legacies and donations. The next 12 months will certainly be more challenging with regard to membership growth. However, the Trustees feel that the Trust is still in a position to continue all its planned projects in the next financial year.

Volunteers

The level of support provided by volunteers to the Trust is truly immense; they assist with a wide range of activities, from practical conservation, and wildlife surveying, to administration, public awareness and environmental education – inspiring the conservationists of the future. The Trust has a database of over 600 active volunteers to help deliver its charitable objectives as well as providing an extra resource in some administrative tasks. In particular the Trust has the

benefit of several dedicated teams of volunteers known as “hit squads” which provide valuable support in the management of the Trust’s nature reserves. This work will involve such tasks as scrub clearance, path and fence maintenance either with or without Trust staff. It would also be impossible to run the schools programmes at Woods Mill and Seven Sisters Country Park without a large team of helpers. In 2010 the total number of hours recorded by volunteers was over 30,000 -in excess of 4,000 days. All of our volunteers are held in high regard and a great deal of the work achieved by the Trust would not be possible without their help.

Achievements and performance

Over the last twelve months our development and delivery has emerged from our focus on landscape-scale nature conservation. Achievements worthy of note during the past 12 months have been

- Over 3 million species records now held on the SxBRC database
- The development of “area profiles” for all our biodiversity opportunity areas so we have good area-based strategies for delivering nature conservation in identified landscape units.
- Over 200 courses and events organised across Sussex in the year
- Expansion of our land ownership with further acquisitions at Ditchling Beacon
- Over 21,000 schoolchildren have benefited from our work by visiting our nature reserves and working with our staff
- The further development of a Youth Ranger project to inspire young people towards a better understanding of conservation issues
- A Youth Council for 9-21 year olds to contribute ideas and enthusiasm to our work
- Membership numbers increased to over 32,000
- The implementation of the “Access to Nature” project funded by the Big Lottery and centred within the urban communities of Brighton and Hove and Hastings engaging hard to reach groups in nature and conservation
- The development of the Gatwick Project to increase contact between people and wildlife in the Crawley area.
- A new community wildlife project in the Lewes area aiming to engage local communities in nature conservation in that area.

Financial review

During the year 2010/11 the level of income generated in the year was just short of £3 million. Our members continue to be very supportive and as always we are extremely grateful for their generosity. Even in the tough economic climate in which we find ourselves membership numbers have continued to grow to in excess of 32,000 and this, together with legacy income received, has enabled the Trust to maintain its level of charitable and capital expenditure throughout the year. Of this sum over £1.75 million was voluntary income comprised of membership subscriptions, legacies and other donations. Details of all the Trust’s income can be found on page 12 of the Annual Accounts.

Total income from charitable activities saw increases in income from the education sector -not only income from schools but also events and courses. Also within this sector funding from the Big Lottery fund for the Trust’s “Access to Nature” project benefitted from a full year of income. In addition the Trust’s Wetlands Project received the sum of £42,000 from the Esme Fairbairn Charitable Trust and donated specifically for surveying, mapping and wetland restoration. There were also additional increases in land management grants

from English Nature reflecting the further extension of the Higher Level Scheme over the Trust’s land holding.

During the financial year the Trust purchased a further 4.29 hectares of chalk grassland at Ditchling Beacon at a cost of £57,000 with the intention of restoring it. Funds towards this were raised through an appeal to members which has generated over £60,000 to date including Gift Aid. The Trust’s total land holding at Ditchling now amounts to 24.09 hectares. In addition at the year end the Trust was in negotiation to acquire the grazing rights at Waltham Brooks – a reserve the freehold of which the Trust already owns. The anticipated cost of this would be in excess of £90,000.

During the year the Trust occupied a small area of office space at the Linklater Pavilion at the Railway Land Local Nature Reserve in Lewes. This office space will be the base for the newly appointed Community Wildlife Officer – a new post for a new department – and will also enable the Trust to carry out its Living Landscape work in the Ouse Valley linking it with the local community. The Trust’s Living Landscape work generally has been further enhanced with the generous support of the Arcadia Trust, the charitable foundation of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin – this support will be for a 5-year period and will approximate to £65,000 per year. With this funding we have been able to employ a full-time Living Landscapes Officer dealing with the management of heathland as well as providing additional support for the Trust’s Wetlands, Community, Biodiversity Partnership and Gatwick Greenspace Projects

The course of the Woods Mill stream has a history of having been straightened in that section where it flows through East Low Mead and Seven Acre Brook. During the year funds were made available through Natural England to enable the re-alignment of the Woods Mill stream. This work was carried out by the Environment Agency and involved dredging a completely new channel, re-instating meanders so that the stream could follow a more natural course. In association with this work the Landfill operator, Viridor Credits, generously provided a sum of £50,000 for improvements to the interpretation at Woods Mill.

Classroom teaching aids these days tend to be very “hi-tec” and during the year over £11,000 from the Trust’s “Gateway-to-Nature” Project were made available to equip the classrooms with an “interactive whiteboard,” four laptop and two desktop computers and five microscopes.

Financial reserves policy

The Trust has a Financial Reserves Policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested should be at least three months of resources expended. At this level the Trustees feel that they would be able to continue the current activities of the Trust in the event of a significant drop in funding. At the balance sheet date unrestricted net current assets were just in excess of £1,220,000. This is higher than the Reserves Policy suggests and is largely attributable to the significant level of legacy income received during recent years.

Investment powers and policy

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to deposit or invest funds. The Investment Policy of the Trust is:

- To invest those surplus funds not required for immediate use
- To obtain a reasonable income from those funds
- To invest only as permitted by the investment powers of the Trust

Sussex Wildlife Trust Trustees' Report (continued)

During the year the Trust has continued to retain the majority of its funds on deposit and the Trustees are of the opinion that this policy has been a prudent one. The Trustees review the Investment policy from time to time but given the Trust's ongoing obligations it has not been felt appropriate to change this approach in the last year.

Plans for future periods

For the past 15 years the Trust has been working to a strategy stimulated by our groundbreaking document "Vision for the Wildlife of Sussex". In 2008 we reviewed progress and published the report "Sussex Wildlife Today" and following this we re-examined our overall strategy. Whilst the broad direction of the Trust remains unchanged, we have increased our emphasis on landscape scale nature conservation. In the process we worked alongside the Trusts National office to push for a Natural Environment White Paper with a much higher ambition for the natural environment in England. Our approach is now part of the national Wildlife Trusts "Living Landscape" concept and indeed we were one of the Trusts who helped stimulate the development of the conservation agenda in this direction.

We will be developing the Living Landscape theme in the future at both a national and local level. At country level we will be helping our national office by lobbying our MPs for an ambitious implementation of the new White Paper. We will be lobbying to see concepts like "Local Nature Partnerships" and large "Nature Improvement Areas" effectively implemented throughout Sussex. More locally the output from this will be a greater emphasis on large-scale projects, target area initiatives (including community and education projects) and a more strategic approach to land acquisition. Taking the lessons from this we will now produce published materials, in hard copy and on the web on the subject of "A Living Landscape for Sussex" with a positive agenda for future nature development in Sussex.

A practical repercussion of our Living Landscape approach will be a re-invalidation of current large-scale projects, such as the West Weald Landscape Project, the Sussex Wetland Landscapes Project and our partnership with the Knepp Estate who are re-wilding a significant area of land. A part-time landowner advisor has been appointed to encourage improvements for wildlife in the wider environment and in future we hope to develop this into a full-time post. In addition we are in the process of expanding the scope of some of our work that is currently focussed on particular nature reserves. Funding from the Arcadia Charitable Trust has enabled us to develop capacity in the reserves team so that officers will be interacting more with the areas around their reserves, delivering nature conservation in the wider landscape and with the wider community. "Living Landscape" also involves reconnecting people with their landscape so underpins much of our People and Wildlife agenda. As such it will help stimulate further community projects. We are already seeing opportunities to expand our community-based work in Hastings, Crawley, Brighton and Lewes and we hope to take up still more opportunities in this regard in the future.

Finally an area of work that has grown over the last year is that of marine nature conservation. We have endeavoured to influence the implementation of the Marine Act in Sussex by promoting the designation of Marine Conservation Zones off the coast of Sussex. This work is set to increase further over the next year with the appointment of our first Marine Conservation Officer who will hopefully be able to lobby for the conservation of significant areas of our marine environment.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees (who are also directors of Sussex Wildlife Trust Limited for the purposes 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

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

Auditor

A resolution to reappoint Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP as auditors to the charitable company will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Small company exemptions

This report is prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

On behalf of the Trustees

Patrick Berry
Chairman

Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD

27th July 2011

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Sussex Wildlife Trust

We have audited the financial statements of Sussex Wildlife Trust Ltd for the year ended 31 March 2011 on pages 8 to 18. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 6, the trustees who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

A description of the scope of an audit of financial statements is provided on the APB's website at

www.frc.org.uk/apb/scope/private.cfm.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2011 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees' were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime.

[Signature]

Keith Lickorish FCA DChA
Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of
Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP
Statutory Auditor
3rd floor, Preece House
Davigdor Road
Hove
BN3 1RE

27th July 2011

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year ended 31 March 2011

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2011 £	Total Funds 2010 £
Incoming Resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary Income	2	1,514,302	253,805	1,768,107	2,022,068
Activities for generating funds	3	53,845	-	53,845	27,100
Investment Income	4	10,879	-	10,879	8,441
Incoming resources from charitable activities	5	641,915	493,105	1,135,020	999,608
Total Incoming Resources		2,220,941	746,910	2,967,851	3,057,217
Resources Expended					
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income	6	602,460	3,751	606,211	555,934
Charitable activities	7	1,446,175	708,349	2,154,524	2,036,844
Governance costs	8	67,388	-	67,388	73,617
Total Resources Expended		2,116,023	712,100	2,828,123	2,666,395
Net Income for Year		104,918	34,810	139,728	390,822
Reconciliation of Funds					
Balances brought forward at 1st April 2010		2,185,379	2,887,591	5,072,970	4,682,148
Balances carried forward at 31st March 2011		2,290,297	2,922,401	5,212,698	5,072,970

All activities of the Trust are classified as continuing

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2011

	<i>Note</i>	2011 £	2010 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	13	371,813	369,905
Heritage Assets	13	3,022,186	2,964,910
Investments	14	100	100
Total Fixed Assets		3,394,099	3,334,915
Current Assets			
Stocks		2,214	1,911
Debtors	15	522,838	342,517
Cash at bank and in hand		1,682,539	1,746,249
Total Current Assets		2,207,591	2,090,677
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	388,992	352,622
Net Current Assets		1,818,599	1,738,055
Total Assets less current liabilities		5,212,698	5,072,970
Funds			
Unrestricted	17	2,290,297	2,185,379
Restricted		2,922,401	2,887,591
Total Funds		5,212,698	5,072,970

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The financial statements were approved by the Council of Management and authorised for issue on 27th July 2011 and signed on their behalf by :

P J Berry
Chairman

D Johnson
Treasurer

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Accounts 31 March 2011

1. Accounting Policies

a) Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) issued in March 2005. The Trust has taken advantage of the exemption from preparing a cash flow statement conferred by Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 on the grounds that it is entitled to the exemptions available in the Companies Act 2006.

b) Incoming resources

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receive it and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Grants from local authorities and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these amount to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use.

Legacies are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) as soon as they are receivable, in accordance with the SORP, provided there is a reasonable assurance that they will be received.

Subscriptions are dealt with on a cash receipts basis. Subscriptions of life members are included as a liability on the Balance Sheet in accordance with the SORP. One twentieth of this is transferred to income each year.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the annual contribution to the charity.

c) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Where payments are in respect of a future period they are categorised as such.

- Cost of generating funds includes expenditure on the recruitment of new members, the employee costs of the marketing and membership departments, the publication and delivery of the Trust's magazine three times per year, the costs of the annual appeal and the administration costs of the membership department together with publicity costs and legacy development
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the main objects of the charity – these are wildlife conservation, public awareness, the management of nature reserves and the collation of wildlife information
- Support Costs; these represent the cost of staff and overheads incurred in providing centralised services for the charity at its offices at Woods Mill and include the finance, human resources, office services departments and buildings maintenance. Support costs are allocated to departments on the basis of staff numbers
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements

d) Tangible fixed assets

The Trust's interests in tangible fixed assets other than land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost with an allowance for depreciation as stated below. Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost.

e) Heritage assets

The Trust's interests in land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost; these have been categorised as heritage assets and are held by the Trust in pursuit of its conservation objectives.

f) Investments

The Trust had no Equity investments during the year other than its investment in its subsidiary company Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd.

g) Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings, car park & services	2-5%
Temporary structures, fencing, etc	20%
Motor vehicles	20%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	20%
Computer software	33%

h) Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

i) Funds structure

The Trust has a number of restricted income funds to account for situations where a donor requires that a donation must be spent for a particular purpose or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose. All other funds are unrestricted income funds. The funds held in each of these categories are disclosed in note 17.

j) Defined contribution pension schemes

The employees of the Trust are eligible to join either the Wildlife Trusts' Pension Scheme or a Group Stakeholder Pension Scheme. The latter is insured with Standard Life and on joining employees will contract directly with the insurance company. Both are defined contribution schemes. Whichever scheme employees join their contributions will be enhanced by a contribution from the Trust which is at least twice the employee contribution. The Wildlife Trusts scheme is managed by independent Trustees and administered by Capita Hartshead. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Wildlife Trusts in an independently administered fund. Contributions are charged to the SOFA as they become payable in accordance with the scheme rules.

k) Operating leases

Rentals are paid under operating leases for use of the Pump Barn at Seven Sisters Country Park, the Linklater Pavilion at Lewes, the use of a Ford Focus Estate and for photocopying equipment at the Trust's offices at Woods Mill and at Tilgate Park in Crawley – all are charged to expenditure as incurred. The title to the buildings and the equipment remains with the lessor.

l) Non-recoverable VAT

Where possible non-recoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred. Otherwise it is charged to support costs.

m) Consolidation

The financial statements present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group. In the opinion of the directors, the company and its subsidiary undertaking comprise a small group. The company has therefore taken advantage of the exemption provided by the Companies Act 2006 not to prepare group accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

Incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2011 TOTAL £	2010 TOTAL £
2 Voluntary income				
Membership subscriptions	529,100	-	529,100	515,848
Donations given with subscriptions	411,888	-	411,888	359,472
Gift Aid	253,922	-	253,922	236,233
Donations from Charitable Trusts	5,677	203,909	209,586	96,381
Other donations	23,650	3,560	27,210	123,452
Legacies	290,065	5,500	295,565	643,183
Public appeals	-	40,836	40,836	47,499
	1,514,302	253,805	1,768,107	2,022,068
3 Activities for generating funds				
Corporate support	47,646	-	47,646	23,338
Advertising revenue	5,247	-	5,247	2,790
Other fundraising income	952	-	952	542
Gateway to Nature project	-	-	-	430
	53,845	-	53,845	27,100
4 Investment income and interest				
Deposit interest	10,879	-	10,879	8,441
	10,879	-	10,879	8,441
5 Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Wildlife conservation & influencing decision makers				
Project grants & income	-	225,420	225,420	253,633
Other income	1,541	-	1,541	6,308
	1,541	225,420	226,961	259,941
People and wildlife				
Grants & income	1,200	8,560	9,760	33,599
Schools income	183,405	-	183,405	149,310
Lottery Funding	-	89,576	89,576	31,702
Events and courses	43,384	-	43,384	39,294
Other income	2,250	-	2,250	1,862
	230,239	98,136	328,375	255,767
Nature reserves management				
Rents, grazing income & timber sales	8,927	-	8,927	20,702
Land management grants & Stewardship income	381,942	16,109	398,051	269,973
The Heritage Lottery Fund	-	2,652	2,652	12,612
Other income	19,266	227	19,493	11,116
	410,135	18,988	429,123	314,403
Collating data on wildlife				
Contract funding	-	150,561	150,561	169,497
	-	150,561	150,561	169,497
Total Incoming resources from charitable activities	641,915	493,105	1,135,020	999,608
Total Incoming resources	2,220,941	746,910	2,967,851	3,057,217

Resources expended

Costs of generating funds

6 Costs of generating voluntary income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2011 TOTAL £	2010 TOTAL £
Staff costs	252,577	1,480	254,057	218,604
Membership promotion	141,666	-	141,666	137,648
Magazine publication & delivery	100,186	-	100,186	83,115
Legacies	4,932	-	4,932	7,793
Public appeal	3,429	-	3,429	3,783
Membership administration & publicity	12,352	-	12,352	19,665
Interpretation & website development	4,061	-	4,061	3,977
Allocated support costs	73,341	-	73,341	75,637
Other fundraising costs	8,618	-	8,618	4,526
Depreciation	1,298	-	1,298	1,120
Gateway to Nature project	-	2,271	2,271	66
	602,460	3,751	606,211	555,934

7 Charitable activities

Wildlife conservation

Staff costs	100,719	227,528	328,247	335,383
Travel	2,267	-	2,267	3,338
Conservation work	6,006	160,954	166,960	144,891
Other	8,505	-	8,505	7,866
Allocated support costs	74,275	-	74,275	75,523
	191,772	388,482	580,254	567,001

Working with people

Staff costs	359,512	99,969	459,481	355,143
Travel & vehicle expenses	7,615	8,032	15,647	7,727
Interpretation, education & other costs	15,428	674	16,102	7,112
Project overheads	27,707	14,530	42,237	49,324
Publicity & events	10,814	1,250	12,064	11,498
Allocated support costs	174,713	-	174,713	180,749
Depreciation	1,304	294	1,598	1,167
Equipment & resources	6,985	11,659	18,644	10,743
	604,078	136,408	740,486	623,463

Nature reserves management

Staff costs	219,404	6,000	225,404	201,100
Travel & volunteers' expenses	7,411	-	7,411	6,555
Tools & equipment	20,617	-	20,617	22,418
Land management	207,039	26,074	233,113	225,945
Barn maintenance	2,756	-	2,756	2,110
Legal & professional fees	16,252	-	16,252	29,061
Other	8,213	-	8,213	6,977
Depreciation	6,741	-	6,741	13,250
Vehicle costs	34,394	-	34,394	33,527
Allocated support costs	60,240	-	60,240	67,717
	583,067	32,074	615,141	608,660

Collating information on wildlife

Staff costs	-	117,290	117,290	119,706
Depreciation	-	971	971	1,079
Data recording	-	19,115	19,115	30,111
Computer support	-	2,761	2,761	3,383
Allocated support costs	67,258	-	67,258	62,650
Administration	-	2,982	2,982	3,965
Other costs	-	3,504	3,504	11,796
Travel & volunteers expenses	-	3,093	3,093	2,508
Conference	-	1,669	1,669	2,522
	67,258	151,385	218,643	237,720

Total expenditure on charitable activities

	1,446,175	708,349	2,154,524	2,036,844
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Notes to the Accounts

Resources expended (continued)

8 Governance	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2011 TOTAL £	2010 TOTAL £
Auditors remuneration				
Audit fee	12,400	-	12,400	12,100
Other services	-	-	-	2,200
Internal Audit Fees	8,625	-	8,625	6,500
Annual report	3,879	-	3,879	4,064
Legal fees	1,689	-	1,689	31
AGM	840	-	840	3,045
Trustees' liability insurance	840	-	840	1,681
Allocated support costs	39,115	-	39,115	43,996
	67,388	-	67,388	73,617
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	2,116,023	712,100	2,828,123	2,666,395

Trustees' Liability Insurance

The Charity pays an annual insurance premium to:

- a) protect the charity from loss arising from the defaults of its Trustees, employees or agents
- b) indemnify the Trustees or other officers against the consequences of any default on their part

9 Allocation of support

The Trust allocates its support costs as shown in the table below and then further apportions those costs between the four charitable activities undertaken.

Support costs are allocated on the basis of staff numbers per department and where appropriate a percentage of time worked.

	Charitable activities £	Governance £	Generating voluntary income £	TOTAL £
Management & central overheads	112,148	11,652	21,846	145,646
Finance department	74,412	7,731	14,496	96,639
Information technology	32,589	3,386	6,349	42,324
Human resources	33,581	3,489	6,542	43,612
General administration	42,278	4,392	8,236	54,906
Office services	56,458	5,866	10,998	73,322
Buildings maintenance	25,020	2,599	4,874	32,493
	376,486	39,115	73,341	488,942

10 Analysis of support costs by charitable activity

	Influencing decision makers £	Working with people £	Nature reserves management £	Collating wildlife information £	TOTAL £
Management & central overheads	22,125	52,044	17,944	20,035	112,148
Finance department	14,681	34,531	11,906	13,294	74,412
Information technology	6,429	15,124	5,215	5,821	32,589
Human resources	6,625	15,584	5,373	5,999	33,581
General administration	8,341	19,619	6,765	7,553	42,278
Office services	11,138	26,200	9,034	10,086	56,458
Buildings maintenance	4,936	11,611	4,003	4,470	25,020
	74,275	174,713	60,240	67,258	376,486

11 The result for the year is stated after charging the following costs:-

	2011	2010
	£	£
Analysis of staff costs:		
Salaries and wages	1,355,654	1,232,880
Social security costs	120,443	107,083
Pension costs	58,773	49,926
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,534,870	1,389,889

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more.

Staff numbers

The average number of fulltime employees was 64 (2010 : 50) including part-time staff.

Other costs:

During the year subsistence expenses of £777 (2010 £57) and travel expenses of £642 (2010 £968) were reimbursed to two Trustees (2010 one Trustee).

Rentals paid under operating leases in respect of plant and equipment totalled £5134 (2010 : £3104).

12 Pension costs:

The Sussex Wildlife Trust, together with other wildlife trusts, participates in The Wildlife Trusts' Pension Scheme. This is administered by Capita Hartshead and the scheme is divided into three categories:

- 1) Category 1 - Life assurance only
- 2) Category 3 - Defined contribution scheme
- 3) Category 5 - Defined benefit scheme

Categories 1 and 3 are available to all staff, whilst Category 5 closed to new members on 31st. March 2005.

None of the current employees of the Sussex Wildlife Trust are members of the Defined Benefit Scheme.

As a result of a triennial valuation of the Scheme's assets in April 2007 the scheme actuary agreed a past service shortfall of £2,232,000. Following the 2010 valuation this had increased to £3,587,000. The total shortfall attributable to the Sussex Wildlife Trust has not been reflected in these financial statements.

However the Sussex Wildlife Trust has been advised by the Pension Scheme Trustees that its share of this shortfall will amount to £3,494 per year inclusive of expenses from 2011 rising at a rate of 5% pa. for 10 years. Once again this level of contribution will be subject to future triennial reviews. In addition the Trust continues to pay contributions in respect of category 1 and 3 members of the Scheme.

Pension contributions

The pension charge shown in the accounts is the amount payable by the Trust during the financial year. It is analysed as follows:

	2011	2010
	£	£
Category 1 - Life assurance only	2,419	2,192
Category 3 - Defined Contribution scheme	20,351	16,797
Category 5 - Defined Benefit Scheme	2,540	3,592
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total contributions to The Wildlife Trusts' Pension Scheme	25,310	22,581
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension Scheme	33,463	27,345
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	58,773	49,926

Pension contribution liabilities:

The following pension contributions were payable at the year-end and are included within creditors:

	2011	2010
	£	£
The Wildlife Trusts' Pension Scheme	3,731	3,065
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension Scheme	4,742	3,317
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,473	6,382

Notes to the Accounts

13 Tangible and heritage fixed assets

Cost	Land & buildings £	Furniture, fixtures & equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total Tangible assets £	Heritage assets £	TOTAL £
At 1st April 2010	672,812	325,207	65,890	1,063,909	2,964,910	4,028,819
Additions	-	26,668	11,874	38,542	57,276	95,818
Disposals	-	(40,463)	(4,000)	(44,463)	-	(44,463)
At 31st March 2011	672,812	311,412	73,764	1,057,988	3,022,186	4,080,174
Depreciation						
At 1st April 2010	350,008	296,357	47,639	694,004	-	694,004
Charge for year	11,878	16,672	8,084	36,634	-	36,634
Disposals	-	(40,463)	(4,000)	(44,463)	-	(44,463)
At 31st March 2011	361,886	272,566	51,723	686,175	-	686,175
Net book values 31st March 2011	310,926	38,846	22,041	371,813	3,022,186	3,393,999
Net Book values 31st March 2010	322,804	28,850	18,251	369,905	2,964,910	3,334,815

Land & Buildings:

Heritage assets consists of land designated as nature reserves by the Trust and acquired either by purchase, gift or lease.

The Trust currently owns, leases or manages 32 nature reserves which have been acquired since the early 1960's and in total cover 1439 hectares of Sussex downland, woodland, wetland, heath, meadow, and farmland. Many are Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Included are five sites designated as nature reserves which were given to the Trust between 1964 and 1981 for which no cost or conventional valuation is available. During the year the Trust acquired 4.29 hectares of chalk grassland at Ditchling Beacon.

14 Fixed asset investments

Subsidiary Company – Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd.	2011 £	2010 £
Cost		
At 1st April 2010	100	100
At 31st March 2011	100	100
Net book value at 31st March 2011	100	100
Net book value at 31st March 2010	100	100

The Trust owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Limited, a company incorporated in the UK. The company has not traded since its incorporation.

15 Debtors

	2011 £	2010 £
Trade debtors	61,388	92,108
Other debtors	354,737	212,595
Prepayments	106,713	37,814
	522,838	342,517

16 Liabilities : amounts falling due within one year

	2011 £	2010 £
Trade creditors	248,890	222,827
Other taxes and social security costs	44,146	37,748
Other creditors and accruals	59,474	51,051
Deferred income	14,826	20,000
Life membership subscriptions	21,656	20,996
	388,992	352,622
Deferred income:		
Balance as at 1st April 2010	20,000	-
Amount released to incoming resources	(20,000)	-
Amount deferred in year	14,826	20,000
Balance as at 31st March 2011	14,826	20,000

17 Funds

	Balance 01.04.2010 £	Movement in Resources Incoming £	Outgoing £	Balance 31.03.2011 £
Restricted				
Nature reserves	2,309,503	14,736	-	2,324,239
Projects	578,088	732,176	712,102	598,162
	2,887,591	746,912	712,102	2,922,401
Unrestricted	2,185,379	2,220,941	2,116,023	2,290,297
Total all funds	5,072,970	2,967,853	2,828,125	5,212,698

Analysis of restricted projects funds movements

	Balance 01.04.2010 £	Movement in Resources Incoming £	Outgoing £	Balance 31.03.2011 £
People and Wildlife	22,830	122,639	136,408	9,061
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	138,779	150,561	151,387	137,953
Sussex Wetlands	100,715	132,193	121,764	111,144
West Weald Landscape	81,256	90,864	89,003	83,117
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	74,088	144,342	145,028	73,402
Biodiversity Partnership Officer	36,596	27,110	31,937	31,769
Chichester Coastal Plain	3,147	-	750	2,397
Gateway to Nature	73,942	-	2,271	71,671
Nature Reserves Management	46,735	64,467	33,554	77,648
	578,088	732,176	712,102	598,162

The Nature Reserves acquisition fund comprises gifts of land or money given specifically for the purchase of Nature Reserves.

Restricted Projects:

- 1) People & Wildlife: a fund established to provide conservation education for schools in Sussex.
- 2) Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: a project funded by individual partners for the provision of biodiversity information for Sussex.
- 3) Sussex Wetlands: a project to enhance the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex.
- 4) West Weald Landscape: a project to enhance the wooded landscape of an area of West Sussex
- 5) Gatwick Greenspace Project: a project to enhance greenspaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement.
- 6) Biodiversity Partnership: a project to coordinate the writing of Biodiversity Action Plans for Sussex
- 7) Chichester Coastal Plain: a fund established for the mapping of an ecological network in the Manhood Peninsula
- 8) Gateway to Nature: funds for this project will help to establish a new learning facility at Woods Mill.
- 9) Nature Reserves Management: funds provided for the management of specific nature reserves or to support particular aspects of nature reserve management.

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the Trust's charitable objects.

Notes to the Accounts

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Investments	Net Current Assets	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Restricted				
Nature reserves	2,324,239	-	-	2,324,239
Projects	-	-	598,162	598,162
Unrestricted	1,069,760	100	1,220,437	2,290,297
	3,393,999	100	1,818,599	5,212,698

19 Contingent liabilities

There are contingent liabilities for the repayment of grants and gifts totalling £735,080. The circumstances in which the repayments become due are set out in the terms of the respective agreements but, in the opinion of the Council of Management, no repayments will be made in the foreseeable future.

The Trust owns Castle Water, part of the Rye Harbour Local Nature Reserve. As previously reported the Trust carried out an investigation to establish the nature and extent of the contamination based on existing data. This confirmed a source of contamination under part of the nature reserve. Since then discussions have been held with relevant officers from the Environment Agency at a local level and the work done so far comprises a series of studies on the extent of contamination in other areas of Rye Harbour. Analysis of these studies is still ongoing. Until these and subsequent investigations are completed the costs of remediation at Castle Water remain unquantifiable. It is unclear to what extent, if at all, the Trust will be liable.

20 (a) Operating lease commitments

The Trust has commitments in the year to 31st March 2011 to pay minimum rentals on buildings and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases. Leases which expire within two to five years after the balance sheet date: buildings £10,574 (2010: £5,225); equipment £5,134 (2010 : £8,329).

(b) Capital commitments:

Capital expenditure contracted for but not paid: £nil (2010 £59,246).

21 Related party Transactions:

During the period 1st April 2010 to 29th September 2010 remuneration of £12,197 (2009/10 £22,844) was made to Mrs P. Green employed in the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre, a department of the Trust. Mrs Green is the spouse of Mr D. Green, a former Trustee, who resigned on 29th September 2010. She was an employee of the Trust prior to her husband's appointment and as such there was no connection between her recruitment and Mr Green's position as a Trustee. Mrs Green is also a member of the Trust's Standard Life Stakeholder Pension Scheme and during the year a sum of £728 (2010, £1,240) was paid by way of Employer Contributions to the Pension Scheme on her behalf.

Under The Charities' SORP clause 230 (c) disclosure of the authority for these payments is required. Due to an oversight prior approval was not obtained but the Trust is in communication with the Charity Commission to regularize the position.



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