

**ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**Company number: 00638666**

**Charity number: 210065**

**CONTENTS**

---

	<b>Page Number</b>
Reference & Administrative Details	
The Trustees Annual Report	
a Objectives & Activities	1
b Public Benefit Statement	1-2
c The Strategic Report	2
i. Achievements & Performance	2-7
ii. Financial Review	7-9
iii. Fundraising at Essex Wildlife Trust	9-10
iv. Financial reserves policy	10
v. Investment powers and policy	10-11
vi. Internal financial controls	11-12
vii. Risk management - Principle risks and uncertainties	12
viii. Future plans	13-14
d Structure, Governance & Management	14-15
e Statement of Board of Trustees' Responsibilities	15-16
f Relationship with the charity and related parties including its subsidiaries	16
g Statement of Disclosure to the Auditors	16
h The Auditors	17
Report of the Independent Auditors	18-20
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	21
Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets	22
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	23
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements	24-52

## ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

---

The registered name of the Charity is Essex Wildlife Trust Limited. It is registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales with the number 210065.

#### Registered office

Abbotts Hall Farm, Great Wigborough, Colchester, Essex CO5 7RZ, 01621 862 960, [www.essexwt.org.uk](http://www.essexwt.org.uk)

#### Members of the Board

The Trustees who served during the year and the dates of their most recent election or retirement were as follows: -

W Akast	Trustee	Re-elected	16 09 2017
G Duffield	Trustee	Re-elected	05 10 2019
S Goshawk	Chair	Resigned	27 09 2019
M Hardy	Trustee	Elected	16 09 2017
K Hazelhurst	Acting Chair	Re-elected	05 10 2019
R Holmes	Acting Treasurer	Co-opted	31 03 2020
D Holt	Vice Chair	Re-elected	15 09 2018
P Johnson	Vice Chair	Resigned	05 10 2019
C Joynson	Trustee	Re-elected	05 10 2019
P Ormond	Trustee	Resigned	20 02 2020
R Steward	Trustee	Stood down	05 10 2019
L Wenlock	Chair	Resigned	31 03 2020
M Wall	Trustee	Co-opted	31 03 2020

#### Principal Officers of the Charity:

Chief Executive Officer: Dr A Impey

Company Secretary: R Malthouse FCCA

#### Advisers:

Auditors: Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Orbital House, 20 Eastern Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3PJ

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC, Barclays Business Centre, 40-41 High Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1BE

Independent Financial Advisors: Buzzacott Financial Planning Ltd, 130 Wood Street, London EC2V 6DL

Investment Managers: Sarasin & Partners LLP, Juxon House, 100 St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8BU

Schroders Wealth Management, 12 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DA

Solicitors: Ellisons, Headgate Court, Head street, Colchester CO1 1NP

VAT Advisors: Constable VAT Consultancy LLP, Manningtree Road, Dedham CO7 6BL

**Introduction to the report of the Board who are also the Trustees of Essex Wildlife Trust Limited**

The Board have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019. The Board have adopted the provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (effective 1 January 2015) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

**Our objectives and activities**

Essex Wildlife Trust is protecting wildlife for the future and for the people of Essex and is required by charity and company law to act within the objects set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association. These are shown below.

The objects of the charity are:

- i. For the benefit of the public, to advance, promote and further the conservation, maintenance and protection of:
  - Wildlife and its habitats.
  - Places of natural beauty.
  - Places of zoological, botanical, geographical, historical, archaeological or scientific interest.
  - Features of landscape with geological, physiographical or amenity value in any ways that are charitable in law and in particular, but not exclusively, in ways that further biodiversity.
- ii. To advance the education of the public in:
  - The principles and practice of sustainable development.
  - The principles and practice of biodiversity conservation.

**Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'. The Trustees refer to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting and developing Strategic Plans as they occur.

The current strategies of the charity, which are employed to achieve the charity's objectives, are set out in the Strategic Plan, which runs until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. This has the following high-level objectives:

- Inspiring the people of Essex to engage with wildlife and value its importance in their daily lives;
- Ensure that terrestrial, freshwater and marine wildlife is thriving throughout the county;
- Delivering a greater voice for wildlife in Essex.

A new strategic plan has been agreed for the period 2020 to 2025 which builds on the work of the current strategy.

Since its inception in 1959, Essex Wildlife Trust has succeeded in increasing considerably the quantity and quality of the land it holds and manages as nature reserves and through its visitor centres continues to offer the public good access. Our premises are in the main freely open to the general public, the only exceptions being those reserves where particular care has to be taken.

## **ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

---

The Trust organises a wide programme of events with a variety of stakeholders such as local authorities, schools, landowners, other organisations and the general public. The benefit of these programmes continues into the future.

Other beneficiaries of the work done by Essex Wildlife Trust include a team of over 1500 volunteers who serve regularly in a variety of ways and who benefit from the skills training offered. The contribution of volunteers alongside the staff is fundamental to the success and efficient running of the Trust.

Like minded organisations and local authorities for whom the Trust manages sites or provides information also benefit.

The Trust caters at certain sites for the needs of people who have accessibility or other specific needs.

The activities, aims and objectives of the Trust are reviewed every five years by the Trustees when revised strategic plans are prepared.

#### **Strategic report**

The information below including the Achievements and Performance, the Financial Review, the Risk Management statement and the Summary of Future Plans forms the Strategic report for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

In our 60th anniversary year, we continued to extend our conservation outcomes, education outcomes, membership base, media profile, online presence, partnership development, organisational culture and commercial income.

Our Annual General Meeting in September was the culmination of a year of celebration. Award-winning naturalist broadcaster, Steve Backshall, drew a sell-out crowd in the evening for our largest ever fundraising event, which raised £8k for wildlife conservation and engaged new audiences for the Trust. After a night of fascinating tales and nail-biting videos, Steve stayed on at Abberton Reservoir until long past midnight, signing books and posing for photos until every last family had been given the chance to meet him.

Our anniversary year also saw our beloved badger logo given a much-needed facelift, as we revamped our visual identity and Brand Guidelines. 'Boris the Badger' was transformed into a more modern incarnation, 'Billie the Badger', who has become the new gender-neutral emblem of the Trust, retaining the best of our heritage and tradition but moving with the times, capturing the energy and ambition of Essex Wildlife Trust for the decade ahead.

#### **Working together for wildlife**

Our ability to protect wildlife and inspire a lifelong love of nature is in large part determined by our effectiveness as an organisation. People are the lifeblood of the Trust; our staff, volunteers, members, and supporters, all acting for wildlife. It was therefore heartening to be awarded Star status by Best Companies in 2019, the organisational equivalent of a Michelin Star. Furthermore, we retained our place in the Sunday Times Top 100 Best Not-for-Profit Organisations in the UK, a significant accolade for a county-based charity.

Among the many inspiring achievements of volunteers, Ray Marsh, our warden at Skipper's Island for 60 years, and a pioneer of nature conservation from the 1950s onwards, received a national award for volunteering, The Cadbury Medal, which is awarded to only a single recipient annually. The symmetry in our sixtieth anniversary year speaks for itself.

## **1. Protecting wildlife**

We manage over a hundred sites across the county. This involves a considerable annual workload. But maintaining the status quo isn't enough. Our aim is to enhance and expand our conservation activities, not just preserve the wildlife we already have for posterity. This is just a snapshot of some of our additional projects and activities in 2019.

### Demonstrating wildlife gain

One of the many new projects launched in 2019 was Share Our Shores, a partnership project with the RSPB. As the human population of Essex grows, we must protect our breeding wildlife. Share Our Shores is one of our first 'behaviour change' projects at the Trust. The aim is to increase the populations of important and iconic beach-nesting birds, such as the tiny little tern, the ringed plover, and the brightly beaked oystercatcher, by creating ideal nesting sites and reducing recreational disturbance.

Among the most exciting projects to come to fruition in 2019 has been the Barn Owl Conservation Project. In the project's final year of monitoring we recorded 207 nesting sites, 51 of which were active sites (one or more eggs) compared to 39 in 2018, with a mean brood size of 3 chicks and a nesting success rate of 24%, the highest recorded by the project. Barn owls are one of Essex's most iconic birds. To see their numbers increasing is fantastic.

2019 was a significant year for planning casework, one of the most important ways that we influence wildlife gain across the county. We have been involved in green infrastructure planning for the Dunton Hills development in Brentwood, we engaged in the consultation process for Middlewick Ranges in Colchester, and we contributed to the master planning of two strategic housing sites in Chelmsford.

We negotiated with the developer of a new housing scheme adjacent to Blue House Farm, the outcome of which was a more sympathetic lighting strategy, and we began work with the Environment Bank on a biodiversity project for Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park. A significant amount of work was involved in investigating the planning history that led to habitat damage at Salary Brook in Colchester, as well as subsequent negotiations.

We also submitted our consultation response to oppose the development of the Lower Thames Crossing and proposed a number of large-scale enhancements.

### Maximising the conservation value of land and sea

Following extensive campaigning and lobbying by the Wildlife Trusts, two new Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) were designated in Essex in 2019: the Kentish Knock East and Swanscombe. We have been committed to the development of marine designations for a number of years, which strengthen the UK's nature recovery network at sea. 2019 was also the publication of the Wildlife Trust's Marine Review, which provides a blueprint for future conservation work.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

---

As well as maintaining over a hundred nature reserves, we have also been planning for the future. A number of ambitious management plans have been developed this year which will yield future successes. One of the management plans that we are most excited about is Blue House Farm. Our new plan has a clear vision for the next five years and beyond, including large habitat enhancements. Exciting plans for Fobbing Marsh are also underway.

It's been a good year for volunteers. We continued to develop our volunteer River and Coastal Wardens Scheme, engaging local communities in citizen science and environmental monitoring, while at Abberton Reservoir, 4,000 new trees were planted over winter, in partnership with Essex and Suffolk Water, taking the grand total to 80,000 trees planted since the site was remodelled. These trees will provide important habitat and passageways for wildlife.

A partnership project at the newly acquired Oliver Road Lagoon site will lay the foundations for a year of habitat enhancement delivery work next year, which will be funded in part by the Land of the Fanns project across the Thurrock district. This year we conducted a full invertebrate survey which has been crucial in informing the management plan. The team have already started on some important habitat enhancements for key invertebrate species.

There are now open areas of acid grassland habitat within Little Havens, Pound Wood, Valerie Wells and Copper's Woods, with species such as Heath Milkwort, Heath Speedwell, Pill Sedge and Golden Rod all now present across the Daws Heath landscape.

Reflecting our focus on Living Seas as well as Living Landscapes, 2019 was a fantastic year for marine conservation and public engagement. We successfully delivered wildlife and fisheries projects, receiving generous funding from the North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group for a marine education project and a fish citizen science project which gave us the opportunity to train 20 new marine citizen scientists. We also had our most successful Marine Month ever, organising numerous events and surveys throughout August, including Shoresearch surveys, estuarine fish survey training, marine wildlife talks, a whale and dolphin watch survey, a marine wildlife celebration day at The Naze, and the introduction of saltmarsh education into our programme of Nature Courses.

Nine Shoresearch surveys were delivered as part of this year's programme, covering six locations, helped by over 120 volunteers. This is a significant platform on which to build future work, increasing our capacity to collect valuable coastal species and habitat data.

We also continued to monitor our ongoing saltmarsh restoration experiments using coir roll 'saltmarsh sausages'.

#### Championing key species

2019 saw the reintroduction of beavers in Essex for the first time in 400 years. Working in partnership with Spains Hall, where the pair of Eurasian beavers are based, we have been mapping and monitoring the beaver enclosure and recording changes to habitats. Beavers are ecosystems engineers, transforming the land and creating new habitats for other species. This historic and game-changing conservation project is already exceeding our expectations. Within weeks they had significantly reduced the flood risk in Finchingfield.

The otter's journey from extinction to recovery is one of Essex's great conservation success stories. It has been part of the fossil records of the British Isles for a staggering half a million years, yet by 1986 the otter was extinct in Essex. This year, to coincide with the final survey, we published our 25 Year Otter Report,

which charts the return of this iconic species. It has been incredible to see a clear trend in the return of otter over the past quarter of a century. We also completed the Roman River Report after 11 years of collaboration with Colchester Natural History Society.

This year, in collaboration with the Southern Colour Ringing Group, we also expanded our pioneering satellite tagging project to track how dark-bellied brent geese use the Essex coastline over winter and follow their journey back to the breeding grounds in Siberia, a 2,500-mile migration. The dark-bellied brent goose arrives in October, with over a quarter of the world's population spending the winter months along the Essex coast. In March they begin their epic migration once again. The satellite data informed our management plans at numerous reserves, as we now have a much more sophisticated understanding of their movements between sites. Through conservation efforts, 2019 resulted in the largest flock of dark-bellied brent geese ever recorded at Lower Raypits.

## **2. Inspiring a lifelong love of nature**

Our mission is to protect wildlife and inspire a lifelong love of nature. Modern conservation must inspire people beyond the conservation community. We cannot do it all ourselves. Although we have large landholdings throughout Essex, we cover a proportionally small area of the county. We must inspire others to help.

We know from research that when people feel connected to nature they are far more likely to take positive action to protect wildlife and help us to achieve our mission. Through our Nature Discovery Centres, our education programmes, and our communications activities, we have a unique opportunity to connect people to nature by providing great experiences both physically and virtually. Here are some of the new activities and improvements we made in 2019:-

### Places of wonder

Our Nature Discovery Centres had another great year. We saw a total of 1.15 million visitors, an 8% increase on 2018, with all sites seeing an increase in visitor numbers.

We have been working hard to get to know our visitors even better. We know that 22% come to use our cafes, 20% come for a walk, and 11% come to see wildlife. Over 78% of our visitors rated their experience with us as 'excellent', which is a great benchmark, but still leaves room for improvement. Most of our visitors (28%) come to our sites on a weekly basis, but 2% come every day! We are also still seeing lots of new visitors discovering our sites, with 15% visiting for the first time. Most people stayed for a couple of hours.

Our centre events had another successful year, running a huge variety of events to encourage as much diversity as possible. Over 8,000 people attended centre events in 2019. It's been a standout year for profit. Our Nature Discovery Centre trading generated £217k profit to be gift aided to the Trust, we sold 67,000 cups of tea and coffee, and our cafes now represent 75% of the turnover of the sales company, Essex Wildlife Sales Limited.

Much of the initial work for the rebuilding of the Langdon Nature Discovery Centre was done in 2019. The new building will finally give Langdon the visitor centre it deserves. It will have an extended car park that includes disabled parking bays, a larger café, more indoor seating and new outdoor seating, bigger and better education facilities, and improved staff and volunteer facilities. The new building will be as environmentally friendly as possible and is being built on the existing centre footprint. It will be equipped



**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

---

with an energy efficient ventilation system to heat the building and high efficiency insulation which will make for a much more sustainable building.

Outstanding outdoor education

Our education work continued to go from strength to strength as we consolidated our position as the county's leading provider (and trainer) of outdoor education, ensuring that children – as the stewards, conservationists, ecologists and eco-minded citizens of the future – are connected to the natural world. In 2018, we achieved 60k meaningful interactions with children, which was a step-change in activity levels at the time. In 2019, we had 76.5k interactions, a 28% increase in delivery.

Our work with schools has continued to grow too. We ran more Forest Schools than ever in 2019, as well as training more educators in outdoor learning through our accredited programmes. We received £90k to deliver wellbeing-focused Forest Schools in Colchester and Tendring, an initiative called Wild Wellbeing, which enabled us to work in close partnership with the NHS and Community 360, while we also received £9k from M&G to deliver Forest School programmes in Chelmsford.

2019 was also the launch of our flagship programme of Plasticology workshops, funded by corporate partners, which educates school-age children about the relationship between plastic and the natural world, particularly in the sea. We received an additional £10k from the North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group to enable us to work with 20 more schools on an exciting programme of activities called Under the Sea, ensuring that we engaged children with marine and freshwater wildlife as well as terrestrial.

Our (soon to be annual) children's festival, Wildfest ('Rewild Your Child'), was launched on 17 August at Thameside Nature Park. Wildfest focused on Marine Month and showcased the full breadth of our education portfolio, with hundreds of parents and children attending. The feedback was fantastic.

One of our big ventures was Nature Friendly Schools, a new and exciting project led by The Wildlife Trusts in partnership with Groundwork, the Field Studies Council, the Sensory Trust and YoungMinds to support teachers across England promote positive mental health and wellbeing for children and young people through nature, targeting children affected by poor mental health and transforming thousands of lives.

We know that children learn better, have more fun, and are happier and healthier when they spend time outdoors connecting with nature. For this reason, we undertook extensive planning in 2019 to open our first outdoor Nature Nursery, which will launch in April 2021. The Nature Nursery will offer high-quality education and childcare, underpinned by early childhood research and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. We want to engage people at every age and stage of life. The Nature Nursery will allow us to have a positive influence on children and parents at the earliest stage of education.

Among our most ambitious outreach projects this year was our Lost Words campaign. Changes to the Oxford Junior Dictionary have meant that many words that describe British nature and wildlife have been removed, including 'acorn' and 'conker', and replaced by newer words such as 'broadband' and 'voicemail'. We began fundraising to ensure that all 800 schools in Essex have a copy of the seminal book, Lost Words, by Robert McFarlane and Jackie Morris.

### Wildlife supporters

It was a great year for membership. We started the year with 37.9k members and ended the year on 39.1k members, passing the 38k and 39k thresholds for the first time ever in the same year.

It's been a great year for raising the profile of wildlife in Essex too. We had a total readership of over 35 million in print media (excluding online coverage) with more than 60 stories featuring in the national press. We had almost 40 radio features and 18 TV features across all terrestrial networks, as well as Sky News and Virgin Media. BBC Countryfile came to Fingringhoe for our first ever winter fish survey in the intertidal area and to find out about otters and our pioneering work on eDNA metabarcoding surveys.

We gained 10k more social media followers across our three main platforms, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, ending the year with 41.5K followers, an increase of 32%, and with significantly higher levels of online engagement with our work. Our largest campaign of the year, 30 Days Wild, which challenges the public to connect with nature and wildlife during every day in June, saw a 29% increase in 'campaigners', with 3.1k sign-ups compared to 2.2k in 2018. Similarly, our website engagement increased dramatically, helped by the launch of our first 'Badger Cam', a great addition to our live webcams, which are essential to connecting people to nature regardless of mobility and accessibility constraints.

We also engaged in more lobbying. Over 150 letters were sent to Essex MPs by members of the public, coordinated by us as part of our Wilder Future campaign, which urged MPs to vote for a strong Environment Bill that puts wildlife at its heart.

### Becoming an even more effective organisation

Towards the end of the year, we developed our new Strategic Plan 2020-25: A Wilder Essex, the focus of which is impact. By many estimations, the next ten years are likely to be the most important in the history of nature conservation, not least because of the climate crisis and the ecological crisis. The next ten years have been described as the 'critical decade'.

We know that, although each year we undertake bigger and better conservation, education and engagement work, we need to be clearer and more confident in our impact. An ambitious commitment to sustainability is also integral to our new Strategic Plan.

## **Financial review**

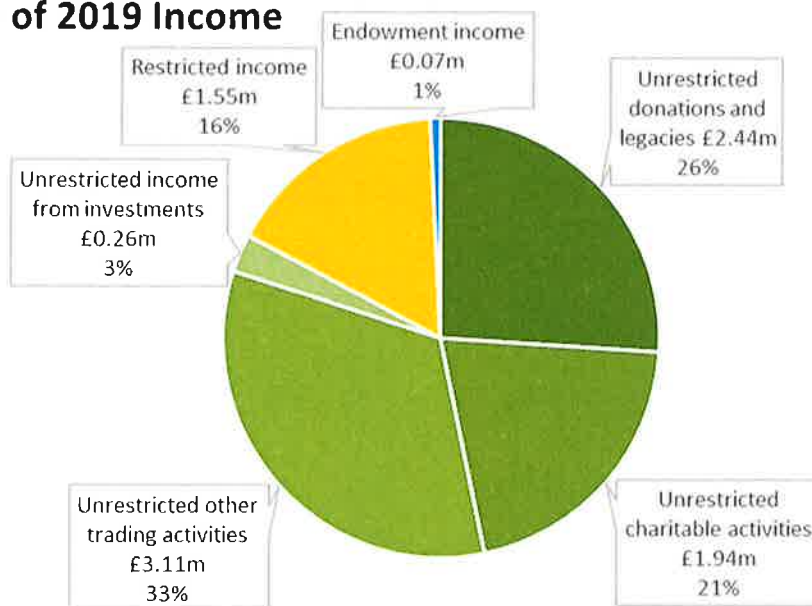
### Overall Results

Overall, we saw an operating surplus this year of £976k (2018: deficit of £119k). When the substantial unrealised investment gain of £1.65m (2018: loss of £830k) together with the actuarial pension gains of £192k (2018: £nil) are accounted for, the increase in retained funds is £2.82m (2018: decrease of £949k). This is mainly due to a significant increase in restricted income, better trading performance and a modest increase in legacies. We would refer you to notes 1.16 and 11 for an explanation of the actuarial pension gains.

### Income

Total income for the year was up 20% to £9.39m (2018: £7.82m). Unrestricted income makes up 83% of this total. We are immensely grateful to our members and donors for their generous support shown for appeals, memberships and donations.

### Analysis of 2019 Income

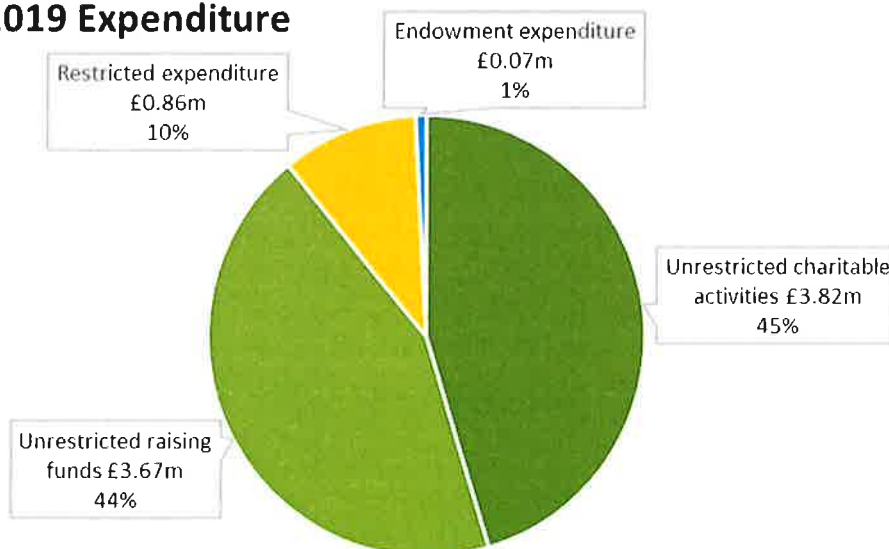


The chart above shows an analysis of our income and further details can be found in Notes 3 to 6 of the financial statements. In terms of highlights, trading income bounced back in 2019 from a disappointing 2018 result with income from other trading activities up 13% to £3.11m (2018: £2.76m). Also restricted income rose by £971k to £1.55m (2018: £582k) due mainly to income received in advance of the Langdon rebuild. Membership income was stable at £1.36m (2018: £1.34m) and legacy income increased 32% to £1.01m (2018: £768k).

### Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was up 6% to £8.41m (2018: £7.94m). Unrestricted expenditure makes up 89% of this total.

### Analysis of 2019 Expenditure



## ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

---

We have spent £4.61m (2018: £4.51m) on fulfilling our charitable objectives, of which £2.46m (2018: £2.28m) has been spent directly on reserves and conservation activities as described in the Achievements and Performance section above.

#### Balance Sheet and Cashflow

The balance sheet value now stands at £29.9m (2018: £27.1m), which is a 10.4% increase.

Our balance sheet value is significantly impacted by market-driven investment valuations, due to the relative size of our investment portfolio. During 2019, strong market performance resulted in an increase in the value of short and long term investments of 19% or £2.4m. During 2020, extreme Covid-related market volatility during the first quarter has resulted in significant unrealised losses, most of which has subsequently been recouped in the market rally since April 2020.

The charity has three different types of charitable funds: unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds. An analysis of the charitable funds appears in Notes 20, 21 & 22 of the financial statements. The charity's general reserves are contained within the unrestricted funds along with those funds designated by the Trustees. The balance sheet is represented by £9.9m (2018: £8.6m) of unrestricted funds, £17.1m (2018: £15.9m) of restricted funds, and £2.9m (2018: £2.6m) of endowment funds.

It is also pleasing to see strong operating cash inflow of £665k (2018: outflow of £237k).

#### **Fundraising at Essex Wildlife Trust**

Essex Wildlife Trust is committed to fundraising and communicating in an honest and transparent way. We rely on the generosity and enthusiasm of members and supporters to fund the majority of our work to protect wildlife and inspire the next generation to care for wildlife too.

Essex Wildlife Trust is registered with the Fundraising Regulator (FR), contributing the appropriate voluntary fee and adhering to its rules and guidance. The FR is responsible for investigating any complaints regarding charity fundraising. We continue to keep abreast of changes and recommendations and are committed to comply with all of these regulations. We also follow the Institute of Fundraising's Code of Practice and comply with the key principles embodied in this code.

Our approach to fundraising is that we are honest and transparent with our donors and supporters about where their money goes and why we ask for donations. We publish information widely about our work and communicate why we need donations and what they will be spent on.

Together with eight other Wildlife Trusts, we established a wholly-owned Wildlife Trust membership recruitment company, Wildlife Fundraising Central Limited. The company is managed by a Board of Trustees drawn from the relevant Wildlife Trusts and other experts. This company is transparent in its fundraising techniques, regulated by the Institute of Fundraising (IOF) and meets with its member Trusts every three months. There is a written agreement between all parties agreeing fundraising standards, monitoring of fundraisers and compliance. Other fundraisers are employed directly by Essex Wildlife Trust and managed as members of staff.

Essex Wildlife Trust is accountable regarding its fundraising. Essex Wildlife Trust monitors fundraising activity through regular reports to the Board of Trustees, based on our budgetary and management accounts process and policy.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

---

All projects are approved and managed through the Strategic Leadership Team, with Board approval where appropriate. All of our projects and core fundraising contribute to Essex Wildlife Trust's strategy and overall vision – to have a county rich in wildlife with communities that value the countryside and that are inspired to help protect it.

Essex Wildlife Trust has a complaints policy and the procedure for making complaints regarding our fundraising can be found on our website, as a link under Essex Wildlife Trust's Fundraising Promise.

Essex Wildlife Trust's policy regarding Vulnerable Adults and Treating Donors Fairly sets out how we expect our fundraisers to behave. Essex Wildlife Trust is respectful – we respect decisions not to make donations and to withdraw membership, we will contact our supporters and donors in the way that they request, we will respond to queries in an open, honest, courteous and professional way. We will acknowledge any complaint within five working days to let complainants know when they can expect a response.

**Financial reserves policy**

Free reserves provide the working capital requirements of the charity, whilst providing a buffer of liquid funds in case of any short-term and substantial decline in income, unexpected increase in costs, or unexpected exposure to risk with financial consequences. The free reserves are especially intended to ensure that the Trust's considerable contractual obligations to staff, freehold and leasehold premises and funding partners can be met.

Essex Wildlife Trust calculates its free reserves by deducting the unrestricted fixed asset balance from the general fund balance shown on the balance sheet.

The Trustees are working to progressively reduce the level of free reserves to approximately three months of establishment costs, non-funded staff costs and the obligations to those third parties that support us with unrestricted grants. The current level of free reserves is £2,732,409, which equates to approximately 4 months running costs.

**Investment powers and policy**

Under the terms of the Articles of Association, the charity has the power to invest in any way the Trustees wish.

Following the adoption of new Articles of Association by the Membership at the AGM in 2013 & 2016, and changes to the methods used to manage the charity's investment portfolio, including the appointment of professional investment advisers, the Trustees agreed a new investment policy, which was reviewed and updated September 2019.

In considering the investment policy, the Trustees place much emphasis on the need to invest in financial products that are considered to be ethical in nature having regard to the objects of the charity.

To demonstrate the ethical requirements of the charity as balanced against the need to ensure that the charity's investments generate income to contribute to the running costs of the charity, the salient parts of the investment policy are as follows: -

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

---

The charity will:

- Use the income and capital generated through investment of its financial reserves to further the objectives of the charity;
- Seek social, environmental and ethical investments with an emphasis on investing in companies that have a positive impact on the environment;
- Avoid investing directly in companies that attribute over 10% of their turnover to tobacco products, alcohol products, gambling, pornography or the production of armaments.

The investment objective:

- For long term reserves of the charity is to achieve capital growth in excess of inflation over the long term, whilst generating an income to support the on-going activities of the charity;
- For the short-term reserves of the charity, equal to at least 6 months running costs, preserve their capital value with a minimum level of risk. Assets should be realisable without undue financial or performance penalty to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements.

Performance of the long-term reserves will be measured primarily against three benchmarks:

- An appropriate composite benchmark based on the long term strategic asset allocation of the portfolio,
- An absolute return benchmark of CPI + 4.00% pa net of fees;
- The Arc Steady Growth Charity Index.

### **Internal Financial Controls**

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Trust has in place an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide reasonable assurance that:

- it is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposal;
- proper records are maintained, and financial information used within the Trust or for publication is reliable;
- it complies with relevant laws and regulation.

The Trustees are aware of the guidance CC8 called "Internal Financial Controls for Charities" published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and are satisfied that the system of financial controls operated by the Trust during the year to which this report refers complied in all material aspects with the Commission's guidance.

These systems provide reasonable assurance against material misstatement or loss and include a strategic plan, a risk register, quarterly management accounts and an annual budget. The documents, which are approved by the Trustees, enable the Trust to monitor the actual quarterly results against the appropriate budgets to ensure that the delegated authority to the Executive defined by the Trustees is adhered to throughout the year.

The Trust needs to be sure that all of its dealings are conducted in a fair and open manner. Therefore, in line with the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010, the Trust has adopted a formal policy and has implemented systems for controlling and recording any gifts or benefits offered to our staff by companies or others.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

---

Training for all existing staff took place when the Act was first introduced and the Trust's policy and procedures regarding bribery are incorporated in the induction of new staff. The contents of the policy are reviewed periodically and a copy of the latest edition is readily available from the Trust's intranet system.

**Risk management – Principal Risks & Uncertainties**

The Trustees have a Risk Management Strategy that includes a Risk Register for the Trust overall and a Risk Register for any major new projects.

The contents of these Risk Registers are reviewed regularly and this helps us to identify significant risks. Actions are then proposed and implemented to address these risks. Risks may be financial and non-financial, such as reputational risk to the charity.

Generally the risks faced by the Trust remain similar over the years, but the Trustees and staff remain vigilant because external, as well as internal, circumstances change.

The current risk priorities we are addressing are:

1. Impact of Covid-19 pandemic (see below);
2. Uncertainty over Brexit and the removal of agri-environmental payments;
3. What the future regulatory landscape will look like for conservation and the environment;
4. Reductions in the availability of unrestricted core funding, requiring us to diversify our fundraising and to remain vigilant on expenditure across the organisation;
5. Higher visitor numbers heightens the need to remain vigilant on health and safety;
6. Increased numbers of school visits illustrates the importance of safeguarding;
7. With an increased staff complement, the need to ensure that we have sound management, reporting and training programmes in place;
8. The General Data Protection Regulations and the associated need to have robust systems in place.

**Post Balance Sheet Event and Going Concern - Covid-19**

Our response to the Covid pandemic has seen all entities in the Essex Wildlife Trust group adopt a "Covid-19 response plan". This has resulted in temporary closure of Nature Discovery Centres, and the temporary cessation of all education, volunteering and outdoor work. Staff have been furloughed (through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme) or are working from home. All aspects of our response are strictly in line with government guidelines. Activities will recommence on a controlled basis during the summer and autumn of 2020, but will be subject to continuing restrictions in line with government guidelines.

Although after the end of the financial year 2019, the Covid-19 pandemic has had financial implications for the Essex Wildlife Trust group the group has adopted more regular reporting and forecasting to mitigate the risk of the financial uncertainty. Having reviewed the group's financial forecasts and expected future cashflows, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and for a period of at least 12 months following the approval of these financial statements. Thus, the going concern basis has been adopted in preparing the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

---

**Future plans**

Our vision is for a county rich in wildlife and people connected to nature. To deliver this, we have developed a new five-year Strategic Plan. Given the scale of the challenge facing us with the climate crisis and the ecological crisis, the focus of our new strategy has to be impact. We need to be absolutely sure that the work we do makes the best use of the resources available to us and has the biggest impact on wildlife. The strategy has three key priorities and the key activities within each are outlined below.

**Protect:** Our first priority is to protect wildlife. Our focus will not only be on protecting and restoring habitats, but also enhancing and creating them. We need to maximise the conservation value of our land and demonstrate wildlife gain across the county, making sure that our conservation practices have the greatest possible impact for wildlife and target the species and habitats that are most in need of our help.

During 2020 under Protect, we will:

- Develop an ecological monitoring programme
- Formulate a nature recovery network strategy
- Develop plans for the next chapter for Abbots Hall Farm
- Complete an evaluation of our nature reserves
- Develop conservation grazing and woodland strategies
- Develop an insect campaign and other key species resources

**Inspire:** Our second priority is to inspire a lifelong love of nature. Modern conservation must engage people beyond the conservation community; we cannot do it all ourselves. We need to mobilise the people of Essex to take individual and collective action. Our nature reserves and Nature Discovery Centres need to be places of wonder where visitors can enjoy great wildlife experiences and become committed wildlife supporters, like you, our members.

During 2020 under Inspire, we will:

- Reboot our Nature Discovery Centres post-Covid, adapting and developing the offer to improve profitability and visitor engagement
- Developing our signage and interpretation infrastructure using outputs from the Interpretation review and brand refresh
- Launch an outdoor learning consultancy: Inside Out – to inspire and train partners to develop outdoor learning
- Continue to prepare for the launch of our Nature Nursery at Abbots Hall Farm in 2021
- Refresh our overall education strategy
- Increase our members and supporters
- Launch innovative ways of connecting with supporters during and post-Covid
- Create more integrated ways of developing supporter engagement with our work

**Enable:** Our third priority is to be the most effective organisation we can be. The extent to which we can protect wildlife and inspire people will be determined by how well we operate as an organisation, and this requires constant review. We want to be the best conservation charity possible, and we want to ensure that our members and donors can see a demonstrable return on their generosity and support.



During 2020 under Enable, we will:

- Start the development of an impact reporting framework
- Streamline key organisational processes to ensure that we are being as efficient and effective as possible
- Start the process of Sustainability Accreditation with the Green Dragon standard, by conducting a full environmental review and baselining our 2019 carbon footprint and developing comprehensive plans for change
- Developing ways of capturing and implementing innovative ideas for change
- Upgrading our finance system and improving internal financial reporting
- Developing a comprehensive inclusivity plan
- Putting a plan in place to develop our culture towards a coaching culture

### **Structure, governance and management**

The Trust is governed by a memorandum and articles of association and is a company limited by guarantee with the number 00638666.

#### **The Governing document**

Essex Wildlife Trust Ltd is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1959, and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association the latest versions of which were approved by Members at the Annual General Meeting held on 22 June 2013 and amended on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2016. The company has no issued or unissued share capital and the liability of each Member of the Trust in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

Essex Wildlife Trust was entered on the Register of Charities for England and Wales on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1962.

#### **Organisation**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for determining the strategic direction of the Trust and for monitoring performance towards those set objectives. The Board meets formally on average at least 4 times per year, there are Committees which generally meet quarterly (for example, a Finance and Audit Committee exists to advise the Board on financial matters) and other informal meetings throughout the year.

A Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operation, the CEO has delegated authority for operational matters, within the terms of delegation approved by the Trustees.

#### **Appointment of Trustees**

As set out in Clause 11.2 of the Articles of Association, the Chair of the Trustees is appointed by the Trustees from among their number. There is provision for up to 13 Trustees in total, one third of who are elected annually by the members of the charitable company, either by post or by attending the Annual General Meeting. Trustees serve for a period of three years, with a maximum of nine years.

As set out in Clause 9 of the Articles of Association, one additional Trustee is appointed by resolution of the Trustees for the time being to take the role of the Treasurer for a term of three years.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

---

The Trustees have the power to co-opt to fill a vacancy that occurs between AGMs. The co-opted Trustee must however stand down or be nominated for election at the next AGM. Following changes to the Articles approved by Members at the Annual General Meeting held on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2016, the Board are now able to appoint up to two trustees.

At the Annual General Meeting in each year, one third of the Members of the Board shall retire from office but shall be eligible for re-election. If the number of Members of the Board is not exactly divisible by three, the number of Members to retire shall be determined by rounding to the nearest whole number.

The Members of the Board to retire at an Annual General Meeting shall be those who have served as such for the longest period since last re-election and where there is an equality of service the person to retire shall be determined by lot.

During the course of 2019, the Board initiated a review of the governance of the Trust.

**Induction and training of Board members**

Trustees' skills are reviewed regularly to ensure that the balance is suitable. New Trustees are inducted into the charity by discussions between themselves and other Trustees, and members of staff, as opportunities arise. They are presented with background information and have access to the Charity Commission's website.

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

The Trustees (who are also directors of Essex Wildlife Trust 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 the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

**Finance & Audit Committee**

The Trustees established the Finance & Audit Committee to take on a number of detailed financial matters in order to advise and make recommendations to the Board. The work of the committee continued during the year under review.

**Key management personnel remuneration**

The Trustees consider the Chief Executive and the Strategic Leadership Team as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration was received for trustee duties in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 10 to the accounts.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Chief Executive and in accordance with the Trust's policy withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises. Where the Trust or any of the Trustees have interests with the trading operations of the charity's trading subsidiaries any such interests are disclosed.

The pay of the charity's Chief Executive is reviewed annually and benchmarked against comparable charities.

**Relationship with the charity and related parties including its subsidiaries**

**i) Other Wildlife Trusts**

The charity is a member of The Wildlife Trusts that is registered as the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) charity number 207238. RSWT acts as an umbrella body on behalf of all county Wildlife Trusts. County Wildlife Trusts have the use of The Wildlife Trusts' logo and benefit from their resources, best practice and experience. Membership gives the charity a national voice and profile. However, each member of the RSWT remains entirely independent in terms of governance and financial management.

**ii) Subsidiary companies**

The Trust has four subsidiaries, the principal activities of which are as follows: -

- Essex Wildlife Sales Limited (EWS) - The retail sale of goods at various Trust centres and other venues throughout Essex.
- Essex Ecology Services Limited (EECOS) - The provision of advisory services relating to environmental matters and farming activities. A decision was made in 2019 to stop commercial farming at the Abbots Hall Farm Site.
- Chafford Gorges Limited - The conservation and maintenance of the area known as Chafford Gorges Nature Park in Thurrock.
- Thameside Nature Park Limited – The conservation and maintenance of the area known as Thurrock Thameside Nature Park adjacent to Mucking in Thurrock.

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

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

**ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

---

**The Auditors**

In accordance with the charitable company's articles, a resolution proposing that Moore Kingston Smith LLP be reappointed as auditors of the charitable company will be put at a General Meeting.

The Report of the Members of Board, which includes the Strategic Report on pages 2 to 14, were approved by the Board on 30 July 2020 and signed on their behalf:

On behalf of the Board

K Hazelhurst – Acting Chair

*Kesley Hazelhurst*  
.....

30<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dated: .....

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Essex Wildlife Trust Limited ('the parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Group Balance Sheet, the Charity Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of the group's profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the trustees' report.

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:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company 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.

**Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 15 and 16, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

---

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the group or the parent charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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 for no purpose other than to draw to the attention of the charitable company's members those matters which we are required to include in an auditor's report addressed to them. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the company and company's members as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Moore Kingston Smith LLP*  
Karen Wardell (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor

Orbital House  
20 Eastern Road  
Romford, Essex  
RM1 3PJ

Dated *31 July 2020*

ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
<b>Incoming and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	3	2,444,593	1,276,404	-	3,720,997	2,545,274
Charitable activities	4	1,941,190	142,527	-	2,083,717	2,062,233
Other trading activities	5	3,113,951	-	-	3,113,951	2,758,470
Income from investments	6	260,558	134,482	74,079	469,119	449,783
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,760,292</b>	<b>1,553,413</b>	<b>74,079</b>	<b>9,387,784</b>	<b>7,815,760</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities	7	3,816,657	728,599	65,695	4,610,951	4,514,364
Raising Funds	8	3,673,938	127,300	-	3,801,238	3,420,640
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7,490,595</b>	<b>855,899</b>	<b>65,695</b>	<b>8,412,189</b>	<b>7,935,004</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>269,697</b>	<b>697,514</b>	<b>8,384</b>	<b>975,595</b>	<b>(119,244)</b>
<b>Other gains/(losses):</b>						
Net impact of initial recognition of multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme	11	225,014	-	-	225,014	-
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme	11	(33,412)	-	-	(33,412)	-
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	839,424	491,954	321,744	1,653,122	(829,589)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>1,300,723</b>	<b>1,189,468</b>	<b>330,128</b>	<b>2,820,319</b>	<b>(948,833)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		8,580,608	15,918,938	2,601,684	27,101,230	28,050,063
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9,881,331</b>	<b>17,108,406</b>	<b>2,931,812</b>	<b>29,921,549</b>	<b>27,101,230</b>

The statement of financial activities contains all gains and losses for the year and all activities relate to continuing operations. The profit for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 is the net (expenditure)/income before unrealised losses/gains.

The detailed comparative information for the statement of financial activities is included at note 31.

The notes on pages 24 to 52 form part of these financial statements.



ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

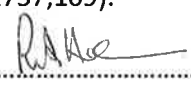
CONSOLIDATED AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEETS  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	Group		Charity	
		2019 £	2018 £	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Fixed Asset</b>					
Intangible assets	13	-	1,768	-	1,768
Tangible assets	14	12,961,533	12,959,680	12,823,875	12,799,954
Long Term Investments	15	12,422,828	10,554,130	8,733,748	7,406,226
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>25,384,361</b>	<b>23,515,578</b>	<b>21,557,623</b>	<b>20,207,948</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks		352,591	378,140	-	-
Debtors	16	2,076,553	1,860,085	2,246,085	2,088,221
Short Term Investments	17	2,843,679	2,273,109	2,843,679	2,273,109
Cash at bank and in hand		71,026	107,263	45,178	70,762
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>5,343,849</b>	<b>4,618,597</b>	<b>5,134,942</b>	<b>4,432,092</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	(635,153)	(625,046)	(730,126)	(653,744)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>4,708,696</b>	<b>3,993,551</b>	<b>4,404,816</b>	<b>3,778,348</b>
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	19	(171,508)	(407,899)	(170,340)	(405,563)
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>29,921,549</b>	<b>27,101,230</b>	<b>25,792,099</b>	<b>23,580,733</b>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	20	5,383,528	4,578,013	5,383,528	4,578,013
General funds		4,497,803	4,002,595	4,672,942	4,187,834
		9,881,331	8,580,608	10,056,470	8,765,847
Restricted funds					
Endowment funds	21	17,108,406	15,918,938	12,803,817	12,213,202
	22	2,931,812	2,601,684	2,931,812	2,601,684
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29,921,549</b>	<b>27,101,230</b>	<b>25,792,099</b>	<b>23,580,733</b>

These accounts were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 30 July 2020.

A separate Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) is not presented because the charitable company has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by section 408 of Companies Act 2006. The net movement in funds for the parent charity was a surplus of £2,211,366 (2018: deficit of £757,109).

  
K Hazelhurst – Acting Chair

  
R Holmes – Acting Treasurer

The notes on pages 24 to 52 form part of these financial statements.  
Company number 00638666

ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019 £	2019 £	2018 £	2018 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>				
<b>Net cash provided/(used) by operating activities</b>		665,210		(237,065)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>				
Dividends and interest	469,119		433,783	
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets	13,250		-	
Purchase of fixed assets	(398,640)		(183,640)	
Purchase of investments	(215,576)		(229,295)	
<b>Net cash (used)/provided in investing activities</b>		(131,847)		20,848
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		533,363		(216,217)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,354,794		2,571,011
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		2,888,157		2,354,794

**Reconciliation of net income to net cash inflow from operating activities**

	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	2,820,319	(948,833)
Depreciation/amortisation	389,422	413,210
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(1,653,122)	829,589
Pension actuarial gains	(191,602)	-
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(469,119)	(433,783)
(Profit)/loss on the sale of fixed assets	(4,117)	238
Decrease in stock	25,549	63,214
Increase in debtors	(216,468)	(141,225)
Decrease in creditors	(34,682)	(19,141)
Increase in local trust balances	(970)	(334)
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activity</b>	665,210	(237,065)

**Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

Deposits on less than 3 month notice	2,843,679	2,273,109
Cash in hand	44,478	81,685
	2,888,157	2,354,794

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

---

**1. Accounting policies**

**Company information**

Essex Wildlife Trust is a limited company domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Abbots Hall Farm, Great Wigborough, Colchester, Essex, CO5 7RZ.

**1.1 Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of listed investments which are included at their market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective 1 January 2015 (The FRS 102 Charities SORP), the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The Trustees confirm that the Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**1.2 Group Accounts**

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary undertakings. The results of the subsidiaries are consolidated on a line by line basis.

No separate SOFA has been presented for the charity as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

**1.3 Fund Accounting: -**

**Unrestricted Funds:** These funds can be used for any of the charity's purposes.

**Restricted Income Funds:** These funds have been given to the Trust for a particular purpose to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

**Endowment funds:** These funds have been given to the Trust for a particular purpose to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor. The capital can generally not be realised.

**Designated funds - Projects:** These funds were set aside by the Trustees for specific projects. Many of these projects are partly funded from restricted funds with the unfunded element set aside from general funds.

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)**

---

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 Incoming resources**

Income from investments, Gift Aid and deeds of covenant is included gross, and is accounted for when it is receivable or the charity's right to it becomes legally enforceable. Provision has been made for Income Tax reclaimable at the year end but not yet received.

Legacy income is included in the accounts when the amount due can be quantified with reasonable probability.

Grants receivable including government grants are accounted for when there is sufficient information to enable the claim to be made or the claim has been made and there is clear indication to suggest the claim will be met.

Income from Donations is accounted for on a receipts basis.

**1.5 Membership Income**

Membership income is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities over the life of the subscription, taking into account the type of membership involved.

**1.6 Volunteer Help**

The Trust receives support from a wide variety of volunteers. It is not practical to place a value on the time volunteered by all these persons, due to the variety of duties performed, the differences in time spent, and the sheer number of volunteers who gave of their time.

**1.7 Resources Expended**

Indirect costs are allocated to the expenditure headings in the SOFA on the basis of the number of employees in each area of work.

Cost of Raising Funds consists of expenditure relating to appeals, communications requesting funds, applying for grants and other general publicity as part of fundraising together with associated support activities and cost of sales.

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

**1.8 Finance and operating leases**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred. The Trust has no finance leases.

**1.9 Irrecoverable VAT**

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

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)**

---

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.10 Land**

Interest in land purchased by the Trust including expenditure on capital projects is stated at cost. Land in joint ownership is also stated at cost. Land gifted to the Trust since 1<sup>st</sup> January 1993 is accounted for at valuation at the date the gift was made.

The charity has been unable to allocate historic costs for freehold land and long leasehold land to specific properties and accordingly the total cost cannot be analysed between the two different types of interest.

No value is attributable to land given to the Trust before 1st January 1993 nor are changes in the value of land after its acquisition recognised.

**1.11 Heritage assets**

The Charity's objects include the conservation of nature for the purpose of study and research and to educate the public in understanding and appreciation of nature, the awareness of its value and the need for its conservation. As such the Charity owns and maintains a number of nature reserves that fall into the definition of heritage assets in accordance with FRS 102. These assets, when purchased other than gifted, have been capitalised at cost at the date of acquisition, and being land in nature have not been depreciated.

These assets have been included within tangible fixed assets and not separately disclosed as the information on their cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the financial statements and to the Charity.

The costs of maintaining the heritage assets are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred, as part of the Trust's charitable activities.

**1.12 Amortisation**

Amortisation is provided at the following rates in order to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer software	33⅓% on cost p.a.
-------------------	-------------------

**1.13 Depreciation**

Depreciation is not provided on freehold land which is considered to have a useful life of more than fifty years. Assets in the course of construction are not depreciated.

Moveable assets over £1,000 are capitalised. Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at the following rates in order to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Buildings	2% on cost p.a.
Abbotts Hall offices	1½% on cost p.a.
Office equipment	33⅓% on cost p.a.
Plant and Equipment	10% to 20% on cost p.a.

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)**

---

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.14 Investments**

Investments are stated at market value. It is the Trust's policy to keep valuations up to date such that when investments are sold, there is no gain or loss arising relating to the previous year. As a result, the SOFA includes those unrealised gains and losses arising from the revaluation of the investment portfolio at the year end. Disclosure is made in the notes to the accounts of the difference between historic cost and sale proceeds of investments sold during the year.

**1.15 Stocks**

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

**1.16 Pension costs**

The Trust operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of some of its employees. The costs of the defined contributions are written off against incoming resources in the year they are payable. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the Trust in independently administered funds. The majority of the employees are members of a money purchase policy, which was set up to meet the government's requirements regarding pension provisions for all staff. Contributions to the policy made on behalf of employees are also charged against incoming resources in the year they are paid.

The Trust is also a member of the Wildlife Trust Pension Scheme (WTPS) which is a hybrid scheme whose defined benefits section is in deficit. The scheme was closed to new members and future accrual on 30 September 2005. For financial years ending on or after 31 December 2019, the way in which the defined benefit pension obligation in WTPS is stated in the financial statements has changed. Previously there has been insufficient information available to account for the charitable company's share of the scheme obligations on a defined benefit basis (i.e. stating assets and liabilities). As a result, and as required by FRS 102, the obligation has been accounted for by stating the present value of agreed future deficit recovery plan contributions.

For financial years ending on or after 31 December 2019 sufficient information has been made available to account for the charitable company's share of the scheme obligations on a defined benefit basis. The information provided during the year gives the liability at 31 December 2018 however, as this information only became available in the current year and after the financial statements for the prior year had been authorised for issue, the change in accounting has been recorded on the first day of the current year, with no restatement of comparators, in accordance with the requirements set out in: "Amendments for FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland: Multi-employer defined benefit plans.

Whilst comparative figures have not been restated, the information provided about the liability at 1 January 2019 has been included in the pension note as it provides useful information to a reader of the accounts.

The liability recognised at 1 January 2019 for the present value of the charitable company's share of the deficit recovery plan contributions of £358,848 has been derecognised and the net pension deficit at 1 January 2019 of £133,834 has been recognised through other comprehensive income in the year.

Under defined benefit accounting the Scheme assets are measured at fair value. Scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and are discounted at

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)**

---

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

appropriate high quality corporate bond rates. The net surplus or deficit is presented separately from other net assets on the Statement of Financial Position. The current service cost and costs from settlements and curtailments are charged to operating surplus. Past service costs are recognised in the current reporting period. Interest is calculated on the net defined benefit liability. Re-measurements are reported in other comprehensive income.

**1.17 Going concern**

Although after the end of the financial year 2019, the Covid-19 pandemic has had financial implications for the Essex Wildlife Trust group, the group has adopted more regular reporting and forecasting to mitigate the risk of the financial uncertainty. Having reviewed the group's financial forecasts and expected future cashflows, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and for a period of at least 12 months following the approval of these financial statements. Thus, the going concern basis has been adopted in preparing the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019.

**1.18 Financial assets**

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

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

**Impairment of financial assets**

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through profit and loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

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

**1.19 Financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial liabilities classified as fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. They are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

**1.20 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

2 **Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

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

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

**Key sources of estimation uncertainty**

**Useful economic lives of intangible fixed assets**

The annual amortisation charge for intangible fixed assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. See note 13 for the carrying amount of the intangible fixed assets and note 1 for the useful economic lives for each class of asset.

**Useful economic lives of tangible fixed assets**

The annual depreciation charge for tangible fixed assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 14 for the carrying amount of the tangible fixed assets and note 1 for the useful economic lives for each class of asset.

**Defined benefit pension scheme**

Management's estimate of the defined benefit pension obligation is based on a number of critical underlying assumptions such as standard rates of inflation, mortality and discount rate. Variation in these assumptions may significantly impact the defined benefit obligation amount and the annual defined benefit expenses (as analysed in Note 11).



NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

3 Income - Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted income £	Restricted income £	Endowment £	2019 £	2018 £
Membership income	1,357,995	-	-	1,357,995	1,337,576
Grants and donations	122,720	1,226,029	-	1,348,749	440,133
Legacies	963,878	50,375	-	1,014,253	767,565
	<u>2,444,593</u>	<u>1,276,404</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,720,997</u>	<u>2,545,274</u>

The 2018 comparative figures include £2,248,453 unrestricted income. The balance of £296,381 – grants and donations and £440 – legacies are restricted income.

4 Income - Charitable activities

	Unrestricted income £	Restricted income £	Endowment £	2019 £	2018 £
Primary purpose activities	921,202	9,726	-	930,928	895,372
Education	530,137	-	-	530,137	477,040
Conservation grants	486,651	132,801	-	619,452	676,421
Local groups	3,200	-	-	3,200	13,400
	<u>1,941,190</u>	<u>142,527</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,083,717</u>	<u>2,062,233</u>

The 2018 comparative figures include £1,903,781 unrestricted income. The balance of £22,970 – primary purpose activities and £135,482 - conservation grants are restricted income.

5 Income - Other trading activities

	Unrestricted income £	Restricted income £	Endowment £	2019 £	2018 £
Trading company - EECOS	556,656	-	-	556,656	526,321
Trading company - EWS	2,465,458	-	-	2,465,458	2,154,191
Fundraising events	91,837	-	-	91,837	77,958
	<u>3,113,951</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,113,951</u>	<u>2,758,470</u>

The 2018 comparative figure of £2,758,470 all relates to unrestricted income.

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted income £	Restricted income £	Endowment £	2019 £	2018 £
Dividends received	247,424	132,606	74,079	454,109	437,992
Interest received	13,134	1,876	-	15,010	11,791
	<u>260,558</u>	<u>134,482</u>	<u>74,079</u>	<u>469,119</u>	<u>449,783</u>

The 2018 comparative figures for dividends received include £237,432 unrestricted income, £126,502 restricted income and £74,058 endowment income. The comparative figures for interest received include £11,523 unrestricted income and £268 restricted income.

**ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)**

7 Expenditure on Charitable Activities	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Totals 2019 £	2018 £
Reserves and Conservation	1,713,016	682,681	65,695	2,461,392	2,277,465
Visitor centres' costs	1,774,254	45,918	-	1,820,172	1,956,677
People and Wildlife	329,387	-	-	329,387	280,222
	<u>3,816,657</u>	<u>728,599</u>	<u>65,695</u>	<u>4,610,951</u>	<u>4,514,364</u>

The 2018 comparative figures for reserves and conservation include £1,474,973 unrestricted expenditure, £695,920 restricted expenditure and £106,572 endowment expenditure. The comparative figures for visitor centres' costs include £1,921,270 unrestricted expenditure and £35,407 restricted expenditure. The comparative figures for people and wildlife include £278,537 unrestricted expenditure and £1,685 restricted expenditure.

8 Expenditure on fundraising	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Totals 2019 £	2018 £
Costs of generating funds:					
Voluntary income	650,289	-	-	650,289	553,007
Activities for raising funds:					
Fundraising events inc. Education	537,978	116,138	-	654,116	436,482
Trading company - EECOS	435,926	-	-	435,926	383,015
Trading company – EWS	2,049,745	-	-	2,049,745	2,037,765
Investment management	-	11,162	-	11,162	10,371
	<u>3,673,938</u>	<u>127,300</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,801,238</u>	<u>3,420,640</u>

The 2018 comparative figures include £3,402,075 unrestricted expenditure. The balance of £8,194 fundraising events inc. education and £10,371 investment management costs are restricted expenditure.

**9 Total expenditure**

- Allocations as Notes 9(i)	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Totals 2019 £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Totals 2018 £
Expenditure on Charitable activities:						
Reserves and Conservation	1,940,515	520,877	2,461,392	1,686,421	591,044	2,277,465
Visitor centres' costs	1,382,635	437,537	1,820,172	1,351,317	605,360	1,956,677
People and Wildlife	232,157	97,230	329,387	182,055	98,167	280,222
Expenditure on raising funds	<u>3,528,645</u>	<u>272,593</u>	<u>3,801,238</u>	<u>3,185,449</u>	<u>235,191</u>	<u>3,420,640</u>
	<u>7,083,952</u>	<u>1,328,237</u>	<u>8,412,189</u>	<u>6,405,242</u>	<u>1,529,762</u>	<u>7,935,004</u>

Total resources expended are stated after charging:		2019 £	2018 £
Auditors' remuneration	- Audit	29,800	28,300
	- Other services	14,190	10,440
Depreciation/amortisation		389,422	413,210
Cost of stocks recognised as an expense		1,476,334	1,419,301
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets		(4,117)	238
Amounts payable under operating leases		<u>23,172</u>	<u>23,115</u>

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)**

**9(i) Allocation of General Support costs**

The breakdown of general support costs and how these were allocated between charitable and fundraising activities is shown in the tables below.

Support costs are allocated to the expenditure headings in the SOFA on the basis of the number of full time equivalent employees in each area of work.

	<b>Total Support costs allocated for the year to 31 December 2019</b>	<b>Allocation</b>			
		<b>Reserves and conservation</b>	<b>Visitor centre costs</b>	<b>People and Wildlife</b>	<b>Activities for fundraising</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Indirect staff costs	799,062	313,358	263,221	58,493	163,990
Office costs	36,542	14,330	12,037	2,675	7,500
Insurance premiums	56,236	22,053	18,525	4,117	11,541
Bank charges	50,116	19,653	16,509	3,669	10,285
Telephone	13,514	5,300	4,452	989	2,773
Stationery/Postage	47,660	18,690	15,700	3,489	9,781
Information technology	130,683	51,248	43,048	9,566	26,821
RSWT contribution	116,828	45,815	38,484	8,552	23,977
Professional fees	77,596	30,430	25,561	5,680	15,925
<b>Total General Support allocations 2019</b>	<b>1,328,237</b>	<b>520,877</b>	<b>437,537</b>	<b>97,230</b>	<b>272,593</b>
<b>Full time equivalent staff for 2019</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>

	<b>Total Support costs allocated for the year to 31 December 2018</b>	<b>Allocation</b>			
		<b>Reserves and conservation</b>	<b>Visitor centre costs</b>	<b>People and Wildlife</b>	<b>Activities for fundraising</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Indirect staff costs	729,025	281,669	288,491	46,782	112,083
Office costs	359,134	138,756	142,117	23,046	55,215
Insurance premiums	68,940	26,636	27,281	4,424	10,599
Bank charges	50,471	19,500	19,973	3,239	7,759
Telephone	12,021	4,645	4,757	771	1,848
Stationery/Postage	57,230	22,112	22,647	3,673	8,798
Information technology	103,209	39,876	40,842	6,623	15,868
RSWT contribution	106,807	41,266	42,266	6,854	16,421
Professional fees	42,925	16,584	16,986	2,755	6,600
<b>Total General Support allocations 2018</b>	<b>1,529,762</b>	<b>591,044</b>	<b>605,360</b>	<b>98,167</b>	<b>235,191</b>
<b>Full time equivalent staff for 2018</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

10 Staff costs

	2019 £	2018 £
Salaries and wages	3,570,518	3,315,394
Social security costs	289,488	268,007
Other pension costs	162,507	149,263
	<u>4,022,513</u>	<u>3,732,664</u>

**Employees and volunteers**

The average number of full time equivalent employees analysed by function was:

People and wildlife	17	16
Landscape conservation	34	33
Central support	25	24
Fundraising, membership and marketing	16	12
Centre management	10	12
Subsidiary companies	43	43
	<u>145</u>	<u>140</u>

The Trust relies on volunteers to help in all aspects of our work particularly for practical conservation work, administration and fundraising. It has not been possible to place a value on the work carried out by volunteers but were it possible, the amount would be significant.

**Board's and employees' emoluments**

Costs incurred by the Board travelling on Trust business and reimbursed to them amounted to £1,121 (2018: £1,656). The number of Board members reimbursed during the year was 3 (2018: 5).

The number of employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more were:

	2019	2018
£60,000-£69,999	-	-
£70,000-£79,999	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Total remuneration of the 7 (2018: 6) members of the senior management team - these being the Trust's key management personnel - in the period was £366,816 (2018: £293,903).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

11 Pension arrangements

The Trust participates in two pension schemes; one is the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme (WTPS) a multi-employer scheme for the benefit of the staff of the wildlife trusts throughout the United Kingdom. The second scheme was created in 2014 to meet the requirements of the Auto Enrolment pensions legislation so that all staff have access to a pension scheme. The pension arrangements in place for all staff incorporate Life Assurance cover of not less than three times their basic salary.

During 2019 the contributions for the active DC members of the WTPS, and the contributions to the Auto Enrolment staff pension scheme amounted to £162,507 (2018: £149,263).

The WTPS has two sections, the Defined Benefit section (DB) and the Defined Contribution section (DC). The Trust's membership of the Scheme consists of past and present members of Essex Wildlife Trust staff, of which six are in the DB section and 42 are in the DC section. The DB section was closed to new members and future accrual on 30 September 2005. But as the Scheme carried a funding deficit at the date of closure, and a funding deficit has been declared at each actuarial valuation since, the Trust must continue to contribute to the pension fund along with the other wildlife trust employers in the Scheme.

The last actuarial valuation at 31 March 2020, rolled back to 31 December 2019, showed a funding deficit of £2.5 million, which amounts are being recovered from the 12 participating employers over the 10 years to 2026 or until the deficit is neutralised, if sooner. The Essex Wildlife Trust's proportion of the funding deficit presently stands at 5.15%.

For financial years ending before 31 December 2019, it has not been possible for Essex Wildlife Trust to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the Scheme as a defined benefit scheme, therefore Essex Wildlife Trust has accounted for the Scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

For financial years ending on or after 31 December 2019, it is possible to obtain sufficient information to enable Essex Wildlife Trust to account for the Scheme as a defined benefit scheme.

For accounting purposes, two actuarial valuations for the Scheme were carried out with effective dates of 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2020. The liability figures from each valuation are rolled back to the relevant accounting dates, if applicable, and are used in conjunction with Essex Wildlife Trust's fair share of the Scheme's total assets to calculate the Essex Wildlife Trust's net deficit or surplus at the accounting period start and end dates.

The information presented for 2018 in relation to WTPS scheme reflects the initial position recognised at 1 January 2019.

The proposals set out in FRS 102 requires the difference on transition from defined contribution accounting to defined benefit accounting to presented separately in other comprehensive income. The change on transition has resulted in a re-measurement, which has been recognised at the relevant date of application, 1 January 2019, in other comprehensive income.

	£
Past service deficit liability as at 1 January 2019 de-recognised	358,848
Net pension scheme deficit under defined benefit accounting as at 1 January 2019	<u>(133,834)</u>
Surplus recognised in other comprehensive income on initial recognition as at 1 January 2019	<u>225,014</u>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

11 Pension arrangements (continued)

Principal assumptions

	At 31 December 2019	At 1 January 2019
	per annum	per annum
Discount rate	1.95%	2.80%
Retail Prices Index (RPI) Inflation	3.10%	3.35%
Consumer Prices Index (CPI) Inflation	2.10%	2.35%
Future increases to deferred pensions	2.10%	2.35%
Rate of increase to pensions in payment:		
Fixed 5% pa		
RPI max 5% pa	5.00%	5.00%
	2.95%	3.15%
Mortality (before and after retirement)	Males: 96% of S3PA Females: 95% of S3PA CMI_2018 with a long term rate of improvements of 1.25% pa; Initial addition to mortality improvements of 0.5%	Males: 96% of S3PA Females: 95% of S3PA CMI_2018 with a long term rate of improvements of 1.25% pa; Initial addition to mortality improvements of 0.5%
Cash commutation	Members assumed to take 25% of their pension as tax-free cash, subject to HMRC restrictions, using cash commutation factors currently in force.	Members assumed to take 25% of their pension as tax-free cash, subject to HMRC restrictions, using cash commutation factors currently in force.
Life expectancy of a male aged 65 at the Balance Sheet Date	22.4	22.4
Life expectancy of a male aged 65 in 20 years from the Balance Sheet date	23.8	23.7
Life expectancy of a female aged 65 at the Balance Sheet Date	24.7	24.7
Life expectancy of a female aged 65 in 20 years from the Balance Sheet Date	26.2	26.1

For the avoidance of doubt, the financial assumptions above are in absolute terms. They are single equivalent rates, however in practice full yield curves are used.

Asset breakdown

The major categories of Scheme assets as a percentage of total Scheme assets are:

	At 31 December 2019	At 1 January 2019
UK Equities	5.1%	4.8%
Overseas Equities	25.0%	25.5%
Diversified Growth Funds	23.9%	24.4%
UK Government Fixed Interest Bonds	15.9%	16.0%
UK Government Index Linked Bonds	15.6%	13.0%
UK Corporate Bonds	10.3%	10.1%
Property	2.4%	2.7%
Cash	1.8%	3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The pension scheme has not invested in any of Essex Wildlife Trust's own financial instruments, nor in properties or other assets used by Essex Wildlife Trust. The assets are all quoted in active markets.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

11 Pension arrangements (continued)

Net defined benefit asset (liability)

	Year to 31 December 2019 £'s	At 1 January 2019 £'s
Fair value of Scheme assets	784,000	694,992
Present value of defined benefit obligation	914,536	828,826
Defined benefit asset/(liability) recognised in balance sheet	<b>(130,536)</b>	<b>(133,834)</b>

Total expense recognised in the SOFA

	Year to 31 December 2019 £'s
Current service cost	0
Administration expenses	7,624
Past service costs including curtailments	0
Effect of settlements	0
<b>Recognised in arriving at operating profit</b>	<b>7,624</b>
Interest on the net defined benefit liability	3,191
<b>Total recognised in the SOFA</b>	<b>10,815</b>

Total amounts taken to Other Comprehensive Income

	At 31 December 2019 £'s
Actual return on Scheme assets - gains and (losses)	86,711
less: amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability	(19,413)
<b>Remeasurement gains and (losses) - Return on Scheme assets excluding interest income</b>	<b>67,298</b>
Remeasurement gains and (losses) - actuarial gains and (losses)	(100,710)
<b>Remeasurement gain/(loss) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>(33,412)</b>

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation

	At 31 December 2019 £'s
Present value of defined benefit obligation at beginning of period	<b>828,826</b>
Benefits paid including expenses	(45,307)
Current service cost	0
Administration costs	7,624
Interest cost	22,683
Remeasurement (gains) and losses - actuarial (gains) and losses	100,710
Employee contributions	0
Past service costs including curtailments	0
Effect of settlements	0
Present value of defined benefit obligation at end of period	<b>914,536</b>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

11 Pension arrangements (continued)

Changes in the fair value of assets

	At 31 December 2019 £'s
Fair value of Scheme assets at beginning of period	694,992
Interest income	19,492
Remeasurement gains and (losses) - Return on scheme assets excluding interest income	67,219
Contributions by Employer	47,604
Employee contributions	0
Benefits paid including expenses	(45,307)
Fair value of Scheme assets at end of period	<b>784,000</b>

Projected total expense to be recognised in the SOFA

	Year to 31 December 2020 £'s
Current service cost	0
Administration expenses	7,624
Past service costs including curtailments	0
Effect of settlements	0
<b>Recognised in arriving at operating profit</b>	<b>7,624</b>
Interest on the net defined benefit liability	2,203
<b>Total recognised in the SOFA</b>	<b>9,827</b>

12 Funders

Essex Wildlife Trust is extremely grateful for the grants which have been received during 2019 from the following funders:

Anglia Water Trust	Ida Davis Foundation
Banister Charitable Trust	Land of the Fanns
Bartleet Family Fund	Linley Wightman Shaw Foundation
Chancery Gate / Crossrail Consortium	National Lottery Heritage Fund
Coop Local Community Funding 2019	Neighbourly Community Grants
Cory Environmental Trust in Colchester	Northwick Trust
Environment Agency	North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group
Essex & Suffolk Water	M&G
Essex Community Foundation	Stansted Airport Community Trust
Essex County Council Community Initiatives	Tesco Bags of Help TK Maxx
Fund	Veolia Pitsea Marshes Maintenance Trust

This list is not exhaustive. Essex Wildlife Trust is very grateful to all its generous funders.



NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 *(continued)*

13 Intangible assets – Group and charity

	Computer software £	Total £
<b>Cost or donated value</b>		
1 January 2019	32,414	32,414
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 December 2019	<u>32,414</u>	<u>32,414</u>
<b>Amortisation</b>		
1 January 2019	30,646	30,646
Charge for the year	1,768	1,768
Disposals	-	-
At 31 December 2019	<u>32,414</u>	<u>32,414</u>
<b>Net book value</b>		
<b>At 31 December 2019</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2018	<u>1,768</u>	<u>1,768</u>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

14 Tangible assets - Group

	Freehold & leasehold land £	Freehold buildings £	Office equipment £	Plant & equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or donated value</b>					
1 January 2019	5,065,237	9,571,394	214,691	2,028,443	16,879,765
Additions	3,542	224,318	14,300	156,480	398,640
Disposals	-	-	-	(23,686)	(23,686)
At 31 December 2019	5,068,779	9,795,712	228,991	2,161,237	17,254,719
<b>Depreciation</b>					
1 January 2019	-	2,248,492	178,596	1,492,997	3,920,085
Charge for the year	-	212,577	28,832	146,245	387,654
Disposals	-	-	-	(14,553)	(14,553)
At 31 December 2019	-	2,461,069	207,428	1,624,689	4,293,186
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2019	5,068,779	7,334,643	21,563	536,548	12,961,533
At 31 December 2018	5,065,237	7,322,902	36,095	535,446	12,959,680

Tangible assets - Charity

	Freehold & leasehold land £	Freehold buildings £	Office equipment £	Plant & equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or donated value</b>					
1 January 2019	5,065,235	9,571,394	189,716	1,715,894	16,542,239
Additions	3,542	224,318	14,300	145,169	387,329
Disposals	-	-	-	(22,833)	(22,833)
At 31 December 2019	5,068,777	9,795,712	204,016	1,838,230	16,906,735
<b>Depreciation</b>					
1 January 2019	-	2,248,492	157,191	1,336,602	3,742,285
Charge for the year	-	212,577	28,832	112,866	354,275
Disposals	-	-	-	(13,700)	(13,700)
At 31 December 2019	-	2,461,069	186,023	1,435,768	4,082,860
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2019	5,068,777	7,334,643	17,993	402,462	12,823,875
At 31 December 2018	5,065,235	7,322,902	32,525	379,292	12,799,954

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 *(continued)*

15 Long Term Investments - Group

	2019 £	2018 £
Quoted investments – market values	12,321,215	10,534,093
Cash held as part of the portfolio	101,613	20,037
	<u>12,422,828</u>	<u>10,554,130</u>

The movement on investments is as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
Market value at 1 January	10,554,130	11,154,424
Additions at cost	215,576	229,295
Disposals at market value	-	-
Unrealised gains/(losses)	1,653,122	(829,589)
Market value at 31 December	<u>12,422,828</u>	<u>10,554,130</u>
Historic Cost at 31 December	<u>10,064,187</u>	<u>9,848,614</u>

Investments comprise:

	2019 £	2018 £
Fixed interest securities	1,585,591	1,520,217
UK Equities	2,632,426	2,037,758
Overseas Equities	6,004,973	5,083,314
Property Funds	1,053,986	963,042
Other	1,145,852	949,799
	<u>12,422,828</u>	<u>10,554,130</u>

There were no investments within the portfolio that could have been considered to be material in the context of the value of the portfolio.

**ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019** *(continued)*

**15 Long Term Investments - Charity**

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	£	£
Quoted investments – market values	8,670,125	7,404,957
Cash held as part of the portfolio	63,621	1,267
Essex Ecology Services Limited share capital	2	2
	<u>8,733,748</u>	<u>7,406,226</u>

The movement on investments is as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	£	£
Market value at 1 January	7,406,226	7,838,289
Additions at cost	166,354	150,547
Disposals at market value	-	-
Unrealised gains/(losses)	1,161,168	(582,610)
Market value at 31 December	<u>8,733,748</u>	<u>7,406,226</u>
Historic Cost at 31 December	<u>7,140,529</u>	<u>6,974,178</u>

Investments comprise:

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	£	£
Fixed interest securities	1,115,740	1,068,639
UK Equities	1,852,371	1,432,445
Overseas Equities	4,225,547	3,573,323
Property Funds	741,663	676,972
Other	798,427	654,847
	<u>8,733,748</u>	<u>7,406,226</u>

There were no investments within the portfolio that could have been considered to be material in the context of the value of the portfolio.

Essex Wildlife Trust Limited has four subsidiaries, two of which are limited by share capital and two of which are limited by guarantee, which are incorporated in England. The share capital above consists of 2 ordinary shares of £1 each held for Essex Ecology Services Limited. The share capital of Essex Wildlife Sales Limited was initially set up and then donated to the Trust. No account is taken of the value of this gift in the financial statements.

Further details concerning the activities and assets of these companies are given in notes 23 & 24.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

16 Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2019 £	2018 £	2019 £	2018 £
Trade debtors	281,139	165,382	99,935	74,816
Amounts due from Group undertakings	-	-	581,569	523,130
Legacies	890,882	1,005,404	890,882	1,005,404
Prepayments and accrued income	364,482	311,117	95,960	109,107
Other debtors	540,050	378,182	577,739	375,764
	<u>2,076,553</u>	<u>1,860,085</u>	<u>2,246,085</u>	<u>2,088,221</u>

Financial instruments included in the above group debtor balances amount to £1,712,071 (2018: £1,548,968) and above charity debtor balances amount to £2,112,441 (2018: £1,930,037).

17 Short Term Investments – Current assets

Group and charity	2019 £	2018 £
Short term deposits	<u>2,843,679</u>	<u>2,273,109</u>

18 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2019 £	2018 £	2019 £	2018 £
Bank loans and overdrafts	7,310	-	-	-
Trade creditors	251,852	311,361	189,711	249,333
Amounts due to Group undertakings	-	-	316,813	257,141
Taxes and social security costs	64,773	84,121	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	263,614	181,960	175,998	99,666
Other creditors	47,604	47,604	47,604	47,604
	<u>635,153</u>	<u>625,046</u>	<u>730,126</u>	<u>653,744</u>

19 Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group		Charity	
	2019 £	2018 £	2019 £	2018 £
Within 2 to 5 years	132,672	241,379	131,504	239,043
Over 5 years	<u>38,836</u>	<u>166,520</u>	<u>38,836</u>	<u>166,520</u>
	<u>171,508</u>	<u>407,899</u>	<u>170,340</u>	<u>405,563</u>

Financial instruments, included in notes 18 and 19 for the above group creditor balances, amount to £478,274 (2018: £766,864) and above charity creditor balances amount to £724,468 (2018: £959,641).

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)**

**20 Designated funds – Group and charity**

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

	Balance 1 Jan 2019 £	Incomings £	Outgoings £	Balance 31 Dec 2019 £
<b>Designated funds - projects</b>				
Abberton Fit Out	48,950	-	(1,000)	47,950
Blue House Farm improvements	-	16,934	-	16,934
Brookes Reserve	(343)	2,028	-	1,685
Capital projects	1,516,632	-	(1,516,632)	-
Colne Point Bridge insurance claim	52,635	-	(2,220)	50,415
Education projects	32,660	6,801	-	39,461
Emergency / asset replacement	80,309	45,500	(21,516)	104,293
Express Wish	80,500	15,082	-	95,582
General Projects	385,942	217,390	(348,052)	255,280
Howlands	40,000	-	(5,000)	35,000
Interpretation fund	134,743	81,000	(3,111)	212,632
Land purchase	110,000	20,000	-	130,000
Landscape conservation projects	54,064	157,489	(6,288)	205,265
Langdon project	-	626,149	(115,531)	510,618
Legacies	1,764,694	-	(335,069)	1,429,625
Legacy capital equipment	-	290,650	-	290,650
Legacy capital building works	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Legacy capital car park works	-	100,000	-	100,000
Legacy capital improvement works	-	150,000	-	150,000
Legacy A Hollands Langdon area	-	299,740	(5,077)	294,663
Local Trust Groups	25,748	34,584	(33,789)	26,543
Lower Raypits	12,581	-	(6,026)	6,555
Pound and Tile Wood	77,298	5,482	(2,127)	80,653
Recognition of legators	5,608	10,000	-	15,608
Records centre	90,965	39,535	-	130,500
Revenue supporting projects	48,747	59,637	-	108,384
Staff training and development	16,280	36,000	(7,048)	45,232
<b>Total designated funds</b>	<b>4,578,013</b>	<b>3,214,001</b>	<b>(2,408,486)</b>	<b>5,383,528</b>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 *(continued)*

---

20 Designated funds – Group and charity (continued)

**Abberton Fit Out** – the Trustees agreed to set aside £100,000 for interpretation and fittings at the new Abberton centre.

**Blue House Farm improvements** – this is a fund to support development and improvements at the Blue House Farm Nature Reserve.

**Brookes Reserve** – this nature reserve was held leasehold by the Trust however the former owner donated the freehold to the Trust together with these funds which the Trustees agreed to hold in a designated fund for Brookes Reserve.

**Capital projects** - these funds have been allocated by the Trustees to allow the development of Trust properties principally the buildings at Abbotts Hall Farm.

**Colne Point Bridge insurance claim** – these funds have been allocated by the Trustees to allow the repair to the bridge on which the claim was based.

**Education projects** – these funds have been designated for the Senior Management team who represent the projects task group, to authorise for specific educational projects that are prioritised in conjunction with the strategic and operational plan to enable achievement of the Trusts charitable education objectives.

**Emergency / asset replacement** – these funds have been designated by the Board for the CEO to authorise purchase of replacement assets in an emergency situation.

**Express Wish** – these funds have been designated by the Board to be allocated in line with the legators wishes. If a suitable project is not found within 2 years of receipt of the funds, then the Trustees will reconsider the allocation of these funds.

**General Projects** – these funds have been allocated by the Trustees to a number of projects to match other funds to ensure these projects can go ahead in the near future.

**Howlands** – this has been designated because the donor, who enabled the Trust to purchase Howlands, also donated £50,000 which the Trustees have decided to use as future support for this nature reserve.

**Interpretation fund** – these funds have been allocated by the Trustees to implement the new interpretation strategy which links with the marketing strategy and charitable objectives.

**Land purchase** – these funds have been designated by the Board to be used for future land purchase opportunities as they become available.

**Landscape conservation projects** – these funds have been designated by the Board for the Projects tasks group to authorise and allocate to specific landscape conservation projects which are considered to be out of core budget but are thought to be important to achieve the charities conservation objectives.

**Langdon project** – this is a fund to support the 2020 rebuild of the Langdon Nature Discovery Centre.

20 Designated funds – Group and charity (continued)

**Legacies** – represent money received which the Trustees wish to allocate to specific future expenditure.

**Legacy capital equipment** – a fund to support capital purchases from legacies.

**Legacy capital building works** – a fund to support building works from legacies.

**Legacy capital car park works** – a fund to support car park works from legacies.

**Legacy capital improvement works** – a fund to support capital improvement works throughout the Trust from legacies.

**Legacy A Holland Langdon area** – a fund to support work in the Langdon area from the A Hollands legacy.

**Local Trust Groups** – these funds have been raised by Local Group fundraising and the Trustees have agreed that they will be held for allocation by the Local Groups to particular projects at a later date.

**Lower Raypits** – the Trust has undertaken major works at this Nature Reserve and these funds are what remain to complete the works.

**Pound and Tile Wood** – these funds have been donated to the Trust and the Trustees have designated them for these particular nature reserves.

**Recognition of legators** – these are funds that the Board has authorised the project task group to use to recognise the contribution of legators e.g. to fund plaques and benches etc.

**Records centre** – these funds have been allocated by the Trustees to further support the development and long term viability of the records centre.

**Revenue supporting projects** – these are funds that have been designated by the Board for the Strategic Leadership Team to authorise projects which are not part of the core budget but considered good projects to bring in future revenue to enable the Trust to undertake its charitable aims in the future.

**Staff training and development** – these funds have been allocated by the Trustees to support and empower our staff to deliver the Trust's strategy.



NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

21 Restricted Income funds – Group and charity

These funds were received for specific projects.

	Balance 1 Jan 2019 £	Incoming funds £	Outgoing funds £	31 December 2019 £
Abberton reserve	62,603	7,069	(4,374)	65,298
Biodiversity Project	172,286	33,822	(59,583)	146,525
Catchment Restoration Fund	12,635	-	-	12,635
Coopers Wood	48,843	-	(840)	48,003
Cory Colchester	77,725	-	-	77,725
Essex Grazing Marsh	1,168	-	(1,168)	-
Fingringhoe reserve	15,750	-	-	15,750
Hanningfield Wardening	21,139	2,000	(9,428)	13,711
Ingrebourne Valley	63,925	6,228	(63,375)	6,778
Land purchase fund	156,160	-	(47,997)	108,163
Land purchase-Blue House Farm	31,985	-	-	31,985
Langdon Lake and Meadows	70,474	952	(8,967)	62,459
Langdon restoration project	-	971,198	(69,468)	901,730
Legacy – I Cotgrove	-	50,375	-	50,375
Legacy - D Weston	205,570	-	(634)	204,936
Legacy - G Heard	10,000	-	-	10,000
Naze Heritage	15,279	5,700	(9,819)	11,160
Oakfield Wood	32,393	-	-	32,393
Oliver Road Lagoons	-	21,484	(18,080)	3,404
Records centre	13,359	-	(36,108)	(22,749)
Reptile Relocation Project	113,794	-	(48,000)	65,794
River Stour	11,551	-	-	11,551
Thameside Nature Park	52,880	-	-	52,880
Valerie Wells Wood	235,532	-	(20,082)	215,450
Water for Wildlife	79,681	50,777	(64,858)	65,600
Wrabness	(2,502)	-	(838)	(3,340)
Fund Balances - less than 10,000	10,767	3,607	(840)	13,534
Fixed Asset Fund – assets purchased from restricted funds	10,700,205	123,192	(221,330)	10,602,067
<b>TOTAL FOR THE CHARITY</b>	<b>12,213,202</b>	<b>1,276,404</b>	<b>(685,789)</b>	<b>12,803,817</b>
Chafford Gorges Limited	3,238,154	634,245	(95,788)	3,776,611
Thameside Nature Park Limited	467,582	134,718	(74,322)	527,978
<b>TOTAL FOR THE GROUP</b>	<b>15,918,938</b>	<b>2,045,367</b>	<b>(855,899)</b>	<b>17,108,406</b>

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019** *(continued)*

**21 Restricted Income funds – Group and charity (continued)**

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

With the exception of those detailed below, the restricted income funds are to be used for capital works or management on the reserve or project specified by the donor.

The Fixed Assets Fund relates to fixed assets acquired from restricted funds.

The Chafford Gorges fund is for managing the reserve at Chafford Gorges, Grays.

The Thameside Nature Park fund is for managing the reserve at Mucking, Thurrock.

**22 Endowment funds – Group and charity**

These are funds which will have arisen from an appeal, from a specific donation, or from grants. Permanent endowments must be retained with the income used for the purpose for which it was given to the Trust where as expendable endowments can be utilised once the trustees consider it appropriate.

	Balance 1 Jan 2019 £	Incoming funds £	Outgoing funds £	December 2019 £
Langdon Dowsett	238,424	36,685	(7,200)	267,909
Joan Elliot	1,920,752	295,494	(57,959)	2,158,287
Holland and Arthur	442,508	63,644	(536)	505,616
	<u>2,601,684</u>	<u>395,823</u>	<u>(65,695)</u>	<u>2,931,812</u>

The Langdon Dowsett fund is to be used to part fund the running of the Langdon reserve.

The Joan Elliot Fund is to be used for the running of Abbots Hall Farm and Reserve; any surplus may be used towards core funding.

The Holland and Arthur fund is to be used to manage (or purchase or put towards a purchase of) land in the District of Tendring. In the meantime, the funds are being held on short term deposit.

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019** *(continued)*

**23 Trading companies**

The trading activities of the Trust are carried out through wholly owned subsidiary companies, Essex Wildlife Sales Limited (EWS) company number 02548617 and Essex Ecology Services Limited (EECOS) company number 02853947. Both companies gift aid their taxable profits across to the Trust.

EWS operates shops in all our nature discovery centres.

EECOS offers environmental project consultancy services and runs a farm at Abbots Hall.

**Profit and Loss Accounts**

	<u>EWS</u>		<u>EECOS</u>	
	2019 £	2018 £	2019 £	2018 £
Turnover	2,465,458	2,154,191	556,656	526,321
Cost of sales	(1,083,318)	(1,063,167)	(393,016)	(356,134)
Gross profit	1,382,140	1,091,024	163,640	170,187
Administrative expenses	(1,155,952)	(1,117,223)	(89,358)	(93,229)
Interest payable	(8,478)	(7,681)	-	-
	217,710	(33,880)	74,282	76,958
Gift aided profits to Essex Wildlife Trust	(183,830)	-	(74,282)	(76,958)
Reserves brought forward	(33,880)	-	-	-
Reserves carried forward	-	(33,880)	-	-

**Balance Sheets**

	<u>EWS</u>		<u>EECOS</u>	
	2019 £	2018 £	2019 £	2018 £
Tangible fixed assets	38,933	41,625	4,653	5,674
Current assets	374,338	342,897	407,455	318,395
Current liabilities	(413,269)	(418,400)	(410,938)	(321,731)
Long term liabilities	-	-	(1,168)	(2,336)
Total net assets	2	(33,878)	2	2
Represented by profit and loss reserves	-	(33,880)	-	-
Represented by share capital	2	2	2	2

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019** *(continued)*

**24 Subsidiary charities**

Chafford Gorges Limited (company number 05189256, charity number 1113511), a company limited by guarantee, is also a registered charity over which the Essex Wildlife Trust has full control. The charity manages and operates the area of land known as Chafford Gorges Nature Park in Grays Thurrock, excluding the nature discovery centre on the site, which is operated by the Trust.

Thameside Nature Park Limited (company number 07151955, charity number 1137142), which is also a company limited by guarantee, is also a registered charity over which the Essex Wildlife Trust has full control. The charity manages and operates the area of land known as Thameside Nature Park at Mucking, excluding the nature discovery centre on the site, which is operated by the Trust.

Summaries taken from the accounts for the two charities for the year ended 31 December 2019 appear below.

**Statement of Financial Activities**

	<u>Chafford Gorges</u>		<u>Thameside Nature Park</u>	
	2019 £	2018 £	2019 £	2018 £
Incoming resources	142,291	145,943	134,718	139,279
Resources expended	(107,583)	(93,378)	(86,307)	(102,709)
Net incoming resources	34,708	52,565	48,411	36,570
Gains/(losses) on investments	491,954	(246,979)	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	526,662	(194,414)	48,411	36,570
Reserves brought forward	3,209,896	3,404,310	344,481	307,911
Reserves carried forward	3,736,558	3,209,896	392,892	344,481

**Balance Sheets**

	<u>Chafford Gorges</u>		<u>Thameside Nature Park</u>	
	2019 £	2018 £	2019 £	2018 £
Tangible fixed assets	4,987	4,993	89,085	107,434
Investments at market value	3,689,082	3,147,906	-	-
	3,694,069	3,152,899	89,085	107,434
Current assets	50,682	63,772	318,951	254,997
Current liabilities	(8,193)	(6,775)	(15,144)	(17,950)
Total net assets	3,736,558	3,209,896	392,892	344,481
Represented by unrestricted funds	3,727,775	3,201,461	392,892	344,481
Represented by restricted funds	8,783	8,435	-	-

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

25 Analysis of net assets between funds- Group

2019	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2019 £
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Tangible fixed assets	1,765,394	10,696,139	500,000	12,961,533
Long-term investments	6,313,740	3,689,082	2,420,006	12,422,828
Current assets	2,589,916	2,742,127	11,806	5,343,849
Current liabilities	(616,211)	(18,942)	-	(635,153)
Long term liabilities	(171,508)	-	-	(171,508)
Total net assets	9,881,331	17,108,406	2,931,812	29,921,549

2018	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2018 £
Intangible fixed assets	1,768	-	-	1,768
Tangible fixed assets	1,647,048	10,812,632	500,000	12,959,680
Long-term investments	5,354,057	3,147,906	2,052,167	10,554,130
Current assets	2,593,835	1,975,245	49,517	4,618,597
Current liabilities	(608,201)	(16,845)	-	(625,046)
Long term liabilities	(407,899)	-	-	(407,899)
Total net assets	8,580,608	15,918,938	2,601,684	27,101,230

Analysis of net assets between funds- Charity

2019	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2019 £
Intangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Tangible fixed assets	1,721,808	10,602,067	500,000	12,823,875
Long-term investments	6,313,742	-	2,420,006	8,733,748
Current assets	2,921,386	2,201,750	11,806	5,134,942
Current liabilities	(730,126)	-	-	(730,126)
Long term liabilities	(170,340)	-	-	(170,340)
Total net assets	10,056,470	12,803,817	2,931,812	25,792,099

2018	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2018 £
Intangible fixed assets	1,768	-	-	1,768
Tangible fixed assets	1,599,749	10,700,205	500,000	12,799,954
Long-term investments	5,354,059	-	2,052,167	7,406,226
Current assets	2,869,578	1,512,997	49,517	4,432,092
Current liabilities	(653,744)	-	-	(653,744)
Long term liabilities	(405,563)	-	-	(405,563)
Total net assets	8,765,847	12,213,202	2,601,684	23,580,733

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

**26 Members' guarantee**

The Charity is a Company Limited by Guarantee and incorporated in England and Wales. In the event of its winding up or dissolution, if there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members of the Trust but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having objects similar to the Trust or to some other charitable object.

The aforementioned are subject to further clauses as stated within the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Every member of the Trust undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Trust in the event of it being wound up, while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amounts not exceeding one pound sterling.

**27 Contingent liabilities**

A legal charge created on 23 March 1987 amounting to £38,000 exists over a parcel of land included within the group's fixed assets.

**28 Commitments under operating leases- Group**

At 31 December 2019 the group had non-cancellable commitments under operating leases expiring as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	£	£
Expiring within 1 year	21,107	17,258
2-5 years	13,154	12,188
	<u>34,261</u>	<u>29,446</u>

**Commitments under operating leases- Charity**

At 31 December 2019 the charity had non-cancellable commitments under operating leases expiring as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	£	£
Expiring within 1 year	7,322	770
2-5 years	7,605	302
	<u>14,927</u>	<u>1,072</u>

**29 Related party transactions**

The charity has taken advantage of the exemptions confirmed by FRS102 not to disclose transactions with its wholly owned subsidiaries. There were no transactions with other related parties during the year.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 (continued)

30 Surplus for the financial year

As permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, the parent charitable company's Statement of Financial Activities has not been included in these financial statements. The surplus for the financial year is made up as follows: -

	2019 £	2018 £
Parent charitable company's surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	2,211,366	(757,109)

31 Comparative information

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted income £	Endowment fund £	Total 2018 £
<b>Incoming and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	2,248,453	296,821	-	2,545,274
Charitable activities	4	1,903,781	158,452	-	2,062,233
Other trading activities	5	2,758,470	-	-	2,758,470
Investments	6	248,955	126,770	74,058	449,783
<b>Total</b>		<u>7,159,659</u>	<u>582,043</u>	<u>74,058</u>	<u>7,815,760</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	7	3,674,780	733,012	106,572	4,514,364
Raising Funds	8	3,402,075	18,565	-	3,420,640
<b>Total</b>	9	<u>7,076,855</u>	<u>751,577</u>	<u>106,572</u>	<u>7,935,004</u>
Net gains on investments	15	(421,376)	(246,979)	(161,234)	(829,589)
<b>Net income and net movement in funds</b>		<u>(338,572)</u>	<u>(416,513)</u>	<u>(193,748)</u>	<u>(948,833)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>8,919,180</u>	<u>16,335,451</u>	<u>2,795,432</u>	<u>28,050,063</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	25	<u>8,580,608</u>	<u>15,918,938</u>	<u>2,601,684</u>	<u>27,101,230</u>

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