

Registration number: 00724133
Charity number: 218711

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
31 MARCH 2025

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

CONTENTS	PAGE
Legal and administrative information	1
Chair's Report	2
Trustees' Report:	
Objectives and activities	4
Main achievements of the year	6
Financial review	13
Structure, governance and management	16
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	18
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members	19
Consolidated Summary Statement of Financial Activities	23
Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets	24
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	25
Notes to the Accounts	26

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Patron Lord Inglewood

Vice Presidents

Mrs S P Bonner	Mrs M Sutcliffe
Dr G Halliday	Dr A Powell
Sir Martin Holdgate	Mrs J Wallen
	Dr Peter Woodhead

Board of Trustees

Chair	David Sharrod
Treasurer	Julie Barrett (until 29/11/2024)
	Philip Byle (appointed 29/11/2024)
Company Secretary	Jane Wilson
Appointed trustees	Prof Graham Hooley (until 29/11/2024)
	Peter Young
Individual members	Adrian Banford (until 29/11/2024)
	Amy Bray
	Dr Volker Deecke
	Sheila Gregory
	Gemma Jones (until 29/11/2024)
	Fiona Southern
Additional Trustees	Danny Poland (until 29/11/2024)
	Lilly Swietek (until 29/11/2024)

Chief Executive Stephen Trotter

Directors David Harpley, Helen Duxbury, Julia Sunderland

Principal and Registered Office
Plumgarths, Crook Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 8LX

Auditor
Saffery LLP, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor,
10 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AP

Solicitors
Milne Moser, 100 Highgate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4HN

Investment Managers
CCLA Investment Management Limited, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET

Bankers
National Westminster Bank plc, 2 High Street, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 1WY
CCLA Investment Management Limited, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET
Flagstone, 1st Floor, Clareville House, 26-27 Oxendon Street, London SW1Y 4EL

Cumbria Wildlife Trust Ltd
Registered in England as company no. 00724133 - a private company limited by guarantee
Registered as an Environmental Body with Entrust No. 093225
Registered Charity No. 218711

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
CHAIR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

I am delighted to present my fifth annual report as Chair of Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

This has been an extraordinary year for our organisation and for the delivery of our charitable objects. I feel that we have really scaled up and expanded our work to put wildlife back into this wonderful county, as we work with ever more partners, communities and individuals for our vital cause.

Inevitably I focus firstly on the major development of the year – the acquisition of Skiddaw Forest in July 2024, followed by the successful subsequent public appeal.

This is by far the largest single land holding the Trust has ever taken on, and it will become one of our most ambitious programmes of restoration and recovery. Covering 1200 ha of mountain top, fellsides and deep peat bogs, this is an enormous opportunity for the Trust to demonstrate what can be done to bring wildlife back to one of the UK's most nature-depleted National Parks. Working with our partners, including Aviva, we will now be embarking on achieving our 100-year vision for this iconic mountain.

A key to success will be the enthusiastic involvement of local communities, who are already helping to grow more than 600,000 trees at five community tree nurseries to help the re-creation of missing broadleaved temperate rainforest, montane grassland and scrub - along with the restoration of 1000 acres of peatland habitats.

Preparation and planning work is well underway – including a suite of the essential baseline surveys and the full range of assessments needed to inform our work. We are hoping to commence the habitat restoration work during the winter of 2026.

All of this is only possible thanks to the extraordinary support of our members and the public from across the UK and beyond who responded to the Skiddaw Forest Appeal. Launched in September 2024, this Appeal to raise the £1M shortfall to secure Skiddaw was reached before December!

The Board of Trustees and our staff have been overwhelmed and humbled by the 7000 donations and the huge volume of messages of support we received. We were fortunate to receive excellent national media coverage and I would like to thank all of the staff and volunteers who were involved in the hard and time-consuming work of acquiring Skiddaw and running such a successful campaign.

Above all though, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed in whatever way; it means so much to us all that so many people share the exciting vision to bring wildlife back to this remote but denuded landscape.

The Skiddaw Forest programme is just one incredible opportunity to create a core site at the heart of a bigger, better and more connected landscape. The Trust is proud and privileged to have the responsibility for managing nature reserves from the highest mountain tops down to sea-level.

We are protecting wildlife and habitat not just for its own sake and importance, but also to help our landscapes become more resilient; and because it is so important in the lives of people in Cumbria.

Clearly, Skiddaw Forest has taken a great deal of our focus this year but despite this, I am very pleased to report that the Trust has still been able to sustain its other work activities and make progress on a broad sweep of other critical projects and programmes. These are described in more detail in the Trustees' annual report below, but to pick out some highlights:

We have completed the acquisition of several additional pieces of the 'jigsaw' around Foulshaw Moss to buffer and extend the nature reserve.

The work of our community team continues to go from strength to strength across a range of projects and programmes. The highest profile of these has been the inspiring community project at Cold Springs, now formally opened to the public alongside the habitat restoration works. Meanwhile, The Bay project working with the local community on mental health and social isolation issues has continued to successfully deliver its activities in and around Barrow, whilst we try to secure future funding to extend the project in the coming years.

A very significant programme of peatland and grassland restoration has been completed this year in partnership with other landowners, farmers and the Cumbria Peat Partnership.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
CHAIR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Our Marine Team has been working hard on a range of important projects and we are now into our second year of the sea grass project in and around Barrow and Walney Island.

The Trust has also been deeply engaged with working to influence our many external partners for the benefit of wildlife throughout the year. We have been particularly involved with the production of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (to be published later in 2025), the development of the Irish Sea Network, planning applications for marine renewable energy, the Great North Bog Partnership, responding to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, a consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain and Government changes to farm and land management payments. The Trust also hosts the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, Nature North (a partnership of environmental organisations across the North of England), the Cumbria Peat Partnership and the Cumbria Beaver Group.

As can be seen in the Accounts below, the significant positive impact of Skiddaw Forest has distorted the Trust's financial figures to some degree. The Board and our Audit and Resources Committee believe that our underlying finances are in reasonably good shape. However there is no room for complacency given rising costs and uncertain wider economic prospects. With Government cut-backs and increasing competition for funding, Charities have grounds for taking a cautious approach. We are considering how to keep even tighter control of costs, whilst always seeking new sources of income including Green Finance, to sustain our ambitious objectives for nature recovery.

We are here for wildlife, but our work is delivered for and by people. As a Charity, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to everyone involved: our Trustees, volunteers, supporters, funders and staff for their hard work and commitment to the cause of wildlife in 2024/25.

I cannot thank enough the large number of dedicated volunteers who give the precious gift of time for Cumbria's wildlife; supporting our remarkable professional, dedicated and passionate staff team.

I am very fortunate as Chair to work with an exceptional Board of very high calibre and enthusiastic trustees. All of them are volunteers drawn from the membership - and I would like to thank them all, and especially our Deputy Chair Jane Wilson, for their contributions, support and leadership.

Our members are Cumbria Wildlife Trust and none of our successful work would be possible without your commitment to protecting and caring for Cumbria's wildlife and 'wild' places.

Our work is entirely reliant on your generosity as supporters and members. Thanks to you, we have been able to do even more for Cumbrian wildlife this year. We are extremely grateful and humbled for these donations and the trust you place in us.

Thank you so much.

David Sharrod
Chair

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees, acting as directors of the company, submit their Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and activities

The Trust's principal activity is the conservation of wildlife in Cumbria. Cumbria Wildlife Trust was established in 1962 to look after the wildlife and wild places of Cumbria and has the following Vision, Mission and Objects:

Vision

The Trust's vision is a Cumbria which is rich in wildlife on land and in the sea, and where people are close to nature.

Mission

Our mission is to bring about a nature recovery network, living seas and a society where nature matters.

Objects

The Trust's objects set out in the Memorandum of Association were modernised in 2002 and are:

- 1 For the benefit of the public, to advance, promote and further the conservation, maintenance and protection of:
 - (i) wildlife and habitats;
 - (ii) places of natural beauty;
 - (iii) places of ornithological, botanical, geographical, zoological or scientific interest;
 - (iv) features of landscape with geological, physiographical or amenity value; in particular, but not exclusively, in ways that further biodiversity.
- 2 To advance the education of the public in:
 - (i) the principles and practice of sustainable development;
 - (ii) the principles and practice of biodiversity conservation.
- 3 To promote research in all branches of nature study and to publish the useful results thereof.

These objectives are central to the top three priorities of our 2020-25 Five Year Strategy which are:

Nature recovery and delivering nature-based solutions

playing a leading role in tackling the wildlife crisis and climate emergency on land and sea:

... directly through increasing the urgency, scale and scope of our work programmes and by becoming even more influential leaders of change by, for example, delivering peat, grassland and woodland restoration programmes and providing more ecological advice to farmers and landowners. We will speak up for Cumbrian wildlife and energise more people to take action to create a Wilder Cumbria and a Nature Recovery Network across the county. We will continue to increase the area of land in our care.

People and wildlife

making wildlife and local nature even more relevant and important in the lives of people and local communities:

... by expanding and improving our work to engage people with nature through events and learning-for-all programmes. We will improve both the physical and intellectual access to our nature reserves. We will also develop our base at Gosling Sike and its role in supporting health and wellbeing programmes in partnership with others in the City of Carlisle.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Raising our game

to meet the scale of the challenges ahead:

... we will improve our governance arrangements to become even more transparent and accountable in meeting the needs and expectations of our beneficiaries. We will get better at what we do and how we deliver it so we can have an even greater impact for people and wildlife.

Generating new income and resources will be key so that we can increase the scale of our work to match the scale of the wildlife crisis. We will be forward-looking and invest in new IT systems and processes to improve our efficiency and effectiveness and to drive reductions in the environmental footprint of our activities. We value our people and will seek to expand our capacity and capability by recruiting more staff and volunteers and by investing in their professional training and personal development.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

As a Charity, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to all of our Trustees, volunteers, supporters, funders and staff for their hard work and commitment to the cause of wildlife in 2024/25. Thank you to all of our supporters for your superb support for wildlife in these difficult times.

Our members are Cumbria Wildlife Trust and none of our work would be possible without your commitment to protecting and caring for Cumbria's wildlife and 'wild' places.

Main achievements of the year

With well over 4,555 hectares of land under its management, species and habitat projects to run and the population of Cumbria to inspire in the cause of protecting the county's wildlife, Cumbria Wildlife Trust has plenty to do! We continue to be especially grateful to the many individuals and organisations who have supported our work during another successful year. Examples of the Trust's achievements in the year are briefly summarised in the following pages which, though not exhaustive, will hopefully provide a flavour of our vital long-term work.

Creating Wildlife Havens through bigger, better nature reserves		
What we planned to do in the year	Some of the things we did in the year	What we plan to do in the next year
<i>Deliver Life on the Edge projects including further fencing, habitat works and employing seasonal engagement and monitoring staff at South Walney, Foulney Island and Rockcliffe Marsh</i> <i>Complete grassland restoration at Bowber Head and ensure success of river restoration and associated habitats</i> <i>Complete transfer of land at Skiddaw Forest (assuming acquisition by June 2024) and meet agreed commitments for Aviva.</i> <i>Begin major project works to establish temperate rainforest and restore peatlands at Skiddaw Forest</i> <i>Establish and develop the supply of trees for temperate rainforest restoration at Skiddaw</i> <i>Continue major ash safety works across multiple nature reserves</i> <i>Begin revision of Nature Reserve Management Plans, to include climate resilience and adaptation</i> <i>Continue to take forward the Witherslack Mosses vision by acquiring land where opportunities allow</i>	The project was delivered with additional staffing provision. Further fencing was employed to strengthen protection of the breeding colonies, and shingle management was completed. Seasonal Wardens were employed. Despite these measures, ground nesting birds had a difficult year largely due to the poor weather conditions. Further restoration work was completed on Bowber Head grasslands. River restoration has been very successful with the beck starting to shape in river habitats. Fencing and trees were planted for wood pasture creation. The transfer of Skiddaw forest was completed in July 2024. We recruited a Skiddaw Project Manager in the autumn/winter of 2024; initiated a range of assessments and habitat/species baseline surveys; obtained the required permission processes we need from various Authorities, fundraising and undertaking preparations for starting practical delivery in 2026. This includes tree seed collection, developing a volunteer base and a suite of community tree nurseries and growing the trees we need. Peatland surveys and restoration planning is underway. The team have undertaken fact finding visits to places like the inspirational Carrifran woodland near Moffat. Agreements are in place with Growing Well at Tebay and with Haverigg Prison to grow and supply trees for the project. Plans are also in place to develop 3 community tree nurseries. Ash safety work continues across many of our nature reserves. Measures to adapt sites to climate breakdown are under consideration and will be written into future management plans. Additional land was acquired at Meathop and Foulshaw Mosses, and we are seeking funding for wetland restoration.	<i>Continue to protect important ground nesting bird colonies at South Walney, Foulney Island and Rockcliffe Marsh, and employ seasonal engagement and monitoring staff</i> <i>Skiddaw Forest:</i> • Recruit a Project Officer • Complete preparations and permissions ready to commence woodland creation and landscape restoration programmes in early 2026-27 onwards • Establish volunteer and community groups and the tree growing contracts / new nurseries to supply our tree requirements • Agree a design monitoring methodology and instigate the compilation of a comprehensive survey baseline • Complete site fire plans • Secure a Stewardship Agreement and commence re-fencing programme <i>Complete fen restoration and eco-hydrology report at Hale Moss; seek funding to implement recommendations</i>

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Creating Wildlife Havens through bigger, better nature reserves (continued)		
What we planned to do in the year	Some of the things we did in the year	What we plan to do in the next year
<i>Explore opportunities to work with Castletown Estates, Rockcliffe on their ambitious conservation plans</i> <i>Support Cumbria Local Nature Partnership and completion of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy</i> <i>Continue to develop a Nature Recovery Network through Land acquisition, County Wildlife Sites, ELMs etc.</i> <i>Complete the County Wildlife Sites 2024-2025 survey programme</i> <i>Build a County Wildlife Sites project delivery team and reconvene the Cumbria Wildlife Site selection panel</i> <i>Continue to secure funding for our nature reserves, primarily through Higher Level Stewardship and Countryside Stewardship Agreements, and work with the Fundraising team to realise other funds</i> <i>Complete reserve acquisitions and extensions at Smardale and Haverigg</i> <i>Continue to promote our land purchase pot for strategic land acquisition</i> <i>Produce a short film about the impact of legacy gifts</i> <i>Deliver the Nature Reserves Interpretation and Signage Strategy</i>	Several meetings have taken place between the Trust and the Estate with positive conversations about how we might collaborate in the future. We continued to host and support the CLNP, which has gone from strength to strength under the leadership of a new Partnership Manager. New projects and working groups to improve biodiversity data for Cumbria include County Wildlife Sites and Roadside Verges. A <i>Collaborating for Nature Recovery</i> event in January 2025 was attended by over 40 stakeholders from nature and environmental charities and NGOs, Local Authorities, and public bodies and focused on delivering nature recovery strategically across the county. We have been closely involved in supporting the production of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, developed with excellent leadership from Westmorland and Furness Council. 95 County Wildlife Sites were surveyed during the year. The re-convened Site Selection Panel reviewed 32 surveyed sites. A volunteer supported the project by undertaking some project administration, data entry and securing permissions for survey. A placement from the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre helped to refine the survey methodology Delivery of Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT) capital works programmes for Bowber Head, Whitbarrow and Barkbooth nature reserves, are in-progress. Preparations are in place for Skiddaw to enter into CSHT once the scheme opens. We pursued opportunities to acquire additional land at Smardale and Haverigg, but neither have been possible due to external factors. We have a live land purchase appeal to reflect that strategic land acquisition remains a continuing priority, given the need to act quickly to save sites at risk around the county. We designed and developed a suite of new signage, based on in-depth consultation with and feedback from our members. We began a Phase 1 roll out of improved welcome signage, accessibility information and interpretation at our nature reserves.	<i>Continue dialogue with the Estate and involve our consultancy</i> <i>Prioritise the delivery of the new Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy in partnership with others through developing our farm advice service, developing and delivering related-projects</i> <i>Continue to secure funding for all our nature reserves work</i> <i>Deliver capital elements of Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) and Countryside Stewardship (CS) agreements and work towards transferring all agreements to the new Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs) and Higher Tier CS (Countryside Stewardship) schemes as these become available</i> <i>Continue to deliver the Cumbria County Wildlife Sites project and deliver the 2025-2026 survey programme.</i> <i>Continue developing restoration options for Lowick Common nature reserve, including conservation grazing and pond and wetland creation</i> <i>Develop a strategic Land Acquisition Strategy</i> <i>Undertake work to make nature reserves more physically accessible especially flagship reserves at Smardale, Foulshaw and Gosling Sike</i>

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Standing up for Wildlife through conserving habitats and species and securing living seas		
What we planned to do in the year	Some of the things we did in the year	What we plan to do in the next year
<i>Continue to promote nature recovery through advocacy, influencing policy and supporting wider partnerships (e.g. Great North Bog, Nature North, the Cumbrian Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Red Squirrels Recovery Network)</i> <i>Deliver Peatland restoration works for the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme, Haweswater Catchment and Kent Catchment projects.</i> <i>Undertake Peatland monitoring programme with the help of volunteers</i> <i>Deliver grassland and pollinator habitat restoration and events programme including Planting for Pollinators - Eden, South Lakes and Kendal, Farming in Protected Landscapes and National Highways Roadside Verges projects</i> <i>Continue to build a pipeline of spade ready peatland and grassland restoration sites by carrying out surveys and preparing restoration/monitoring plans</i> <i>Develop a project pipeline for more Nature Based Solutions on Land and at Sea</i> <i>Sustain involvement with partners across a range of species, deliver current projects and develop funding for new projects: rare plants, seed bank, orchids, pollinators</i>	We raised awareness of natural environment issues during the General Election: writing to previous and new MPs on a range of wildlife issues such as: supporting national campaigns on increasing funding for nature-friendly farming; the detail of future Government payment schemes; planning and nature; our delivery of nature-recovery actions locally, and on how Green Finance benefits wildlife. 1,630ha of peatland was restored at several upland and lowland sites. The Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme funded restoration as part of both the Great North Bog Upland Restoration Project and the Northern Peatland Coalition's Lowland Peatland Restoration Scheme. Other sites included the Haweswater Peatland Project, Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery Project, Cumbria Connects and the Eastern Fells Landscape Recovery Project. 30 volunteers are working with the Trust's Peatland team to collect data for <i>Eyes on the Bog</i>, a UK-wide citizen science peatland monitoring programme. Highlights from our grassland work include: Fantastic community support for the <i>Planting for Pollinators</i> habitat restoration projects (Eden: 80 community volunteers, South Lakes: 187 and Kendal: 80) and a new <i>Coast to Fell</i> project which restored 27.3 ha of species-rich grassland using locally sourced plants and worked with local farmers, landowners and partners. Overall 72,875 plug plants and 136.7kg of seed were used in our restoration programmes, 1,031 people participated in 66 volunteer sessions, and survey results from 46 verge sites previously restored through the <i>Get Cumbria Buzzing</i> project were published in the 2024 West Coast Pollinator monitoring report. 240ha of grassland was surveyed across 103 sites. 30 grassland restoration plans and 27 grassland management plans were produced. 11 peatland areas covering 2033.5ha were surveyed and restoration plans produced. We successfully secured funding for a Cumbria Rare Plants project and started to develop a new Water Vole Species Recovery project. A Horticulture Conservation Officer was recruited to work on the Cumbria Seed Bank at Gosling Sike which now has cold storage and equipment to test seed health.	<i>Continue to respond to live issues, threats and opportunities for Cumbria's wildlife as they arise through our advocacy and campaigning work</i> <i>Consider our strategic approach to delivering more wilding projects across the county including preparing / reviewing our grassland and peatland strategies</i> <i>Work to develop the project pipeline and ensure continuity of income generation to implement the nature recovery network</i> <i>Deliver a significant number of new projects going live this year, including:</i> • <i>Cumbria Rare Plants</i> • <i>Seagrass restoration</i> • <i>Red Squirrel Recovery Network (with Red Squirrels Northern England)</i> • <i>Expansion of the Gosling Sike plant nursery</i> <i>Employ a Development Manager to engage key stakeholders and influencers to drive landscape-scale nature recovery along the Hadrian's Wall corridor</i> <i>We have plans to support new Landscape Recovery projects and associated funding bids such as in the Solway National Landscape and other locations if the scheme is re-opened by the Government</i>

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Standing up for Wildlife through conserving habitats and species and securing living seas (continued)		
What we planned to do in the year	Some of the things we did in the year	What we plan to do in the next year
<i>Further develop Cumbria Wildlife Consulting by increasing capacity and developing a programme of contract work</i>	The Trust gained Responsible Body status from Defra and the UK Government to manage Conservation Covenants with agreement holders. Significant changes occurred this year, with the structure and approach of the consultancy now under review to reflect and engage with new opportunities provided for nature recovery by areas such as Conservation Covenants and Biodiversity Net Gain.	<i>Offer an integrated Green Finance and Conservation Covenants service and support Biodiversity Net Gain related activity – and develop our external client base further</i>
<i>Deliver and develop Marine advocacy across the North West Wildlife Trusts and lead a collective work programme through the Irish Sea Network. Promote an Irish Sea Network report for Marine Spatial Planners</i> <i>Engage with Allonby Bay HPMA, raise awareness and secure funding for an engagement officer</i> <i>Secure funding for a diverse marine programme post March 2025</i> <i>Deliver seagrass restoration in the Walney Channel and scope other restoration opportunities</i> <i>Support two Marine interns and deliver a Marine Champion volunteer training programme</i>	We continued to lead the Irish Sea Network, composed of the 6 different administrations with an Irish Sea coast (Scotland, England, Wales, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, and Republic of Ireland) each with their own policies, laws, and positions on the marine environment. Plans to continue the network post 2025 when current funding ends are being developed. An inaugural Irish Sea Day held 10 events across the 6 nations and engaged 1,200 people; 450 people attended Cumbria's SeaFest, which offered 17 different marine-themed activities. We engaged with partners including the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Solway National Landscapes, and the Solway Firth Partnership. We were awarded a £250k grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for an Allonby Bay Engagement Officer (2.5 year post). Funding was secured for further seagrass scoping work, plus £290k from Our Future Coast for a 2-year Seagrass Project Officer post. In the autumn we picked seagrass seeds for the first time on the beds in the Walney Channel; over 5 days, with the help of 17 volunteers, almost 20,000 dwarf eelgrass spathes (seed pods) were collected.. The project won the NW Coastal Excellence Award for best practice. The Marine Interns successfully completed their programme and specialist projects. Their work included: a report on kittiwake nesting on offshore wind substations, a feasibility study for seal tagging and a feasibility study on water quality testing around the Walney Channel seagrass beds Our volunteer Marine Champions ran monthly Shoresearch and Seawatch surveys.	<i>Secure further funding for the Irish Sea Network and our advocacy work</i> <i>Continue to develop and deliver our Seagrass Restoration project</i> <i>Develop a volunteer group to support the Seagrass project</i> <i>Deliver engagement work Bay around the Allonby Highly Protected Marine Area</i> <i>Focus on coastal adaptation as the anticipated impacts of sea level rise and storm events become more apparent.</i> <i>Continue to monitor coastal and marine habitats and species</i> <i>Address disturbance issues at the South Walney seal colony</i> <i>Continue to deliver training and engagement programmes for marine volunteers</i> <i>Collaborate with other marine internship programmes to recruit for the next intake</i>

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Inspiring People to value nature and leading the way on local wildlife conservation		
What we planned to do in the year	Some of the things we did in the year	What we plan to do in the next year
<i>Recruit a dedicated Events Coordinator and deliver a comprehensive programme of events and activities in person and online</i> <i>Continue to develop our relationship with the two Local Authorities: Engage with local politicians and decision- makers</i> <i>Continue to deliver nature-based health & wellbeing outcomes through The Bay: A Blueprint for Recovery in Barrow</i> <i>Develop and grow opportunities on the West coast e.g. Earnse Bay, Allonby Bay, Maryport</i> <i>Complete development work for Coastal Ambassadors in Barrow</i> <i>Train volunteers as Community Champions</i> <i>Focus on Youth engagement and young volunteers</i> <i>Continue to support our Local Groups and help them to develop</i> <i>Develop a Planting and Volunteering programme and partnerships with key local organisations for Skiddaw Forest</i> <i>Deliver effective communications and marketing, and key stakeholder engagement around Skiddaw Forest</i>	On-line event listings and production of our <i>What's On</i> events guide continued to be delivered by a dedicated officer in the Marketing team. We delivered 557 events throughout the year, with 3,271 bookings made by 1,558 people. The planning of our extensive events programme was co-ordinated by the Head of Marketing. We continued to deliver a successful social prescribing programme in Barrow, through The Bay project thanks to funding from Cumbria Community Fund. Future funding is being explored through a partnership bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for an Earnse Bay project. Funding for an Allonby Bay engagement project was awarded in February 2025; the focus is on the designation of the UK's first Highly Protected Marine Area and what this means for the local community. Work was undertaken with specific communities and through our projects to support local people to take action for nature where they live, and this has influenced our future approach to community organising. Delivery of our <i>Nature and You</i> youth project on the west coast continued to support young people through out-of-school activities to connect with our coastal environment and take action to protect it. We welcomed Rusland Horizons as our newest Local Support Group. An event was held in February for local groups to come together to share successes and challenges. We appointed a Community Tree Grower who is leading an innovative effort to source and raise native trees from local seed, avoiding imported stock that could introduce pests or fail in the harsh upland climate. Volunteers are collecting seeds, which are nurtured in local nurseries being set up across Cumbria, to create resilient woodlands that reflect Skiddaw's character. A virtual tour of Skiddaw Forest has been created for our website, outlining our vision to create a wildlife haven over the next 100 years. The Skiddaw Forest restoration appeal remains live and highlights volunteering opportunities and public events. Key partners sit on our Skiddaw steering group.	<i>Carry out a review of the effectiveness of our events diary and make recommendations for improvements to our annual events offer</i> <i>Consider how we support devolution and the work of a new Cumbria Mayor and Combined Authority, and ensure that nature recovery in Cumbria is on the agenda</i> <i>A large partnership project is pending at Earnse Bay, Walney (with Natural England and Westmorland and Furness) which will include a significant community engagement element</i> <i>Continue to deliver nature-based health & wellbeing outcomes through The Bay: A Blueprint for Recovery</i> <i>Explore opportunities to engage young people with an interest in nature and climate</i> <i>Deliver the last season of funded 'Time in Nature' events for people with dementia and their carers</i> <i>Support the establishment of new Community tree growing nurseries to help supply trees for Skiddaw Forest</i> <i>Nurture the contacts made during the Skiddaw Forest Appeal and develop communications with supporters to keep them up-to-date and engaged in the programme</i>

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Inspiring People to value nature and leading the way on local wildlife conservation (continued)		
What we planned to do in the year	Some of the things we did in the year	What we plan to do in the next year
<i>Recruit and embed a new Head of Community</i> <i>Continue to grow and deliver a Wilder Cumbria</i> <i>Recognise the actions taken for nature on our on-line interactive map</i> <i>Provide resources and training for community leaders and teachers to enable more people to take action for nature</i> <i>Formalise our schools offer for a Wilder Cumbria</i> <i>Launch the Outdoor Learning Education project in Carlisle</i> <i>Complete the delivery of the Next Door Nature project in Carlisle</i> <i>Continue to offer conservation apprenticeships and host student placement and work experience opportunities</i> <i>Recruit a Cold Springs Community Officer</i> <i>Continue to invest in membership recruitment and retention</i> <i>Promote our Community Membership offer</i> <i>Continue to develop and evolve our use of social media and comms to engage with and encourage more people to take action for nature</i> <i>Appoint new Digital Engagement roles to increase our capacity and responsiveness</i> <i>Continue to encourage people to take action for nature by delivering campaigns around government policy, behaviour change and engagement</i>	The new Head of Community is in post. From pond-building workshops to wildlife gardening sessions and environmental campaigning, people of all ages were given the tools to make practical changes to help nature and their local environment, whether at home, in schools or in shared spaces. Events such as the Hedgehog and Swift Cafés helped spark curiosity and intergenerational engagement with nature. Our schools offer focused on Carlisle and South Lakeland. In Carlisle we were supported by the Ernest Cook Trust to employ an Outdoor Learning Officer who works with schools to engage primary and secondary age children in learning about nature in the places where they live and go to school. In South Lakeland we delivered a comprehensive education programme at our flagship Foulshaw nature reserve. Immersive learning experiences were delivered on site for all ages from nature tots through to university research projects. In just one year we have engaged 790 individuals through this work. The successful <i>Next Door Nature</i> project came to an end and we continue to implement this approach to community organising in our wider work with communities. We provided 3 apprenticeships and one university placement. We have been trialling work experience opportunities for young people interested in a career in the conservation sector, and will continue to support this through our project work. Work began in earnest at our new Cold Springs Community Nature Reserve with a new Engagement Officer dedicated to this site. An orchard, ponds, tall trees, grassland and garden area have all been developed with the input of local people and volunteers. An official opening event was well attended by the community and the site is already very popular with walkers. Membership numbers were similar to the previous year, with an increase overall in the average value of memberships. New membership income over the year amounted to £60,810 and there was small increase in the number of members contributing gift aid on their donations. Retention figures held up too, being comparable to the previous year. A Digital Engagement Officer was appointed towards the end of the period.	<i>Develop a new five year community engagement strategy to maximise our ability to further support individuals and communities to take action for nature</i> <i>Explore further external income opportunities for communities and our engagement activities</i> <i>Re-focus our education offer and recruit to the vacant post within the team.</i> <i>Continue the delivery of our schools Outdoor Learning work in Carlisle</i> <i>Continue to seek funding to support training and development opportunities for young people and offer entry level positions for some of our new projects</i> <i>Recruit for the next intake of young trustees (x2 seats on the Board for young people aged 18-25)</i> <i>Continue to invest in membership recruitment and retention</i> <i>Develop our storytelling capability and improve staff understanding of social media communications to engage more people and new audiences</i> <i>Continue to deliver The Wildlife Trust's calls for action for nature and the environment, plus national campaigns such as '30 Days Wild', 'Wilder Gardens' and the new 'Home' campaign for 2026</i>

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Raising Funds and efficiently managing our resources to enable our vision and mission		
What we planned to do in the year	Some of the things we did in the year	What we plan to do in the next year
<i>Achieve target of raising £1.25M for Skiddaw land purchase</i> <i>Update our income and project pipeline Develop our digital fundraising approach to maximise income</i> <i>Further progress new income streams e.g. corporate wellbeing days.</i> <i>Explore long-term commercial potential for Gosling Sike Wildflower Nursery and develop plans for expansion to meet increased demand.</i> <i>Develop design and deliver innovative green finance schemes across land and sea, especially Biodiversity Net Gain and Nutrient Neutrality.</i> <i>Work with the local planning authorities to establish the need for, and potentially create, a Special Purpose Vehicle for Green Finance funding and delivery</i> <i>Deliver our carbon reduction plan by introducing new electric vehicles and solar panels</i> <i>Improve internal systems and procedures: Introduce new HR software (subject to funding), improve staff review process and financial reporting</i> <i>Complete the refresh of our governing document</i> <i>Continue our task and finish group approach to exploring key issues and opportunities</i> <i>Implement proposals for Honorary Officers</i> <i>Develop a framework for engaging with our advisory network</i>	We were overwhelmed by the response to our major public appeal launched in September 2024 to raise £1.25M to secure Skiddaw Forest and which hit the target in just 6 weeks. Thousands of people donated along with messages of support for restoring and protecting this unique landscape. Their generosity gave us a once in a lifetime opportunity to put nature firmly into recovery on a vast scale. The 100 year project for England's highest nature reserve will bring back 620 acres of lost Atlantic Rainforest to Skiddaw's lower slopes in addition to creating over 2,200 acres of habitat such as montane scrub, wildflower grassland, heather moorland and 992 acres of peatbogs, and will work with local communities, farmers and volunteers to make the vision a reality. Business plans for the Consultancy and for the expansion of the Gosling Sike Wildflower Nursery are being developed for consideration by the Board. We continued to explore emerging Green Finance opportunities including saltmarsh restoration on the Solway coast. We have been exploring a potential partnership with the 2 Local Authorities and the Lake District National Park Authority to create a 'Cumbria Nature Special Purpose Vehicle' to manage Biodiversity Net Gain and Nutrient Neutrality in the county. We were part of a highly successful conference in February 2025 to launch the Nature North Natural Capital Investment Strategy. We replaced some of our pool vehicles with electric ones, and installed electric charging points at our sites. Solar panels were installed at our Plumgarths Head Office and at South Walney. The Trust purchased 'HiBob' People Management Software and records are being transferred to the new system in advance of training and roll-out. Revisions to the Trust's governing document will be completed next year. Following the review of the Trust's Honorary roles, plans to support key advocates and to engage with our Badgers Paw Award Holders are in progress. In August 2024, the Board agreed a framework for the new Advisory Network, and identified the next steps for implementation. The network will provide a pool of expertise, skills and knowledge to call upon for 'deep dive' task and finish work delegated by the Board, replacing the former Conservation and Development Committees.	<i>Continue a Skiddaw Restoration fund appeal and seek further funding to support and enhance the woodland creation and peatland restoration</i> <i>Develop legacy and major donor delivery in line with strategies to maximise income</i> <i>Expand and promote our corporate offer including Wild Work days and sponsorship opportunities</i> <i>Expand the Gosling Sike Plant Nursery to generate income</i> <i>Continue the exploration and development of Green Finance options for our work and acquire at least one site for Biodiversity Net Gain/Nutrient Neutrality</i> <i>Generate membership sign-ups via online marketing, including targeted promotions and social media</i> <i>Undertake a review of our internal communications to support a joined up, integrated approach</i> <i>Implement a review of costs and efficiencies</i> <i>Complete an update of the Trust's Articles of Association.</i> <i>Hold the first meeting of our new Advisory Network</i>

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

All fundraising and member recruitment activities were undertaken by Cumbria Wildlife Trust staff. The Trust is committed to the fundraising codes of practice upheld by the Fundraising Regulator and our senior fundraising staff are members of the Institute of Fundraising. Our aim is to build a long-term relationship with our supporters.

To protect vulnerable people from fundraising activities we limit the number of appeals each year and the number of repeated asks to the same people. We always exclude children from appeals and have a robust contact preference system within our CRM in place that takes in to account the wishes of individuals and concerned friends and relatives of vulnerable people. We have strong data protection policy in place and highly qualified experienced staff to protect the data held within our CRM systems.

One complaint was received during the year concerning our fundraising activities; a member complained that they had received too many requests for donations this year. This arose as every three years we ask if our members will consider voluntarily increasing their membership subscription. This appeal consists of two email requests and one postal request. This appeal was five months after the Skiddaw Forest Appeal.

We plan our fundraising activities carefully and always consider the frequency of requests.

Financial Review

The Trust's income for the year was £13,804,508 (2023/24: £5,757,274), a reflection of the generosity of our corporate donors and general public in support of the purchase and maintenance of the Trust's nature reserves. The significant increase in income this year was driven by £5,731,199 of grants and £1,970,571 of public donations and legacies for the purchase and creation of a new nature reserve and forest project on Skiddaw. Underlying income, excluding that for Skiddaw, rose by 6.0%.

Heritage assets have increased by £6,421,211, which reflects the acquisition of the nature reserve on Skiddaw and an additional piece of land at Foulshaw, Bellart How Moss. Cash and cash equivalents has increased by £1,581,618, driven largely by restricted income relating to the creation of the nature reserve on Skiddaw. Restricted funds have increased by £7,382,652, also largely relating to Skiddaw.

Much of our grant income is restricted to asset purchases and expenditure on specific conservation activities to be carried out in future years and is therefore held in the Trust's funds at 31 March 2025 to facilitate conservation work in 2025/26 and provide match funding for work that is not fully funded. Despite the economic instability in the UK, the Trust's activities expanded. Total expenditure on charitable activities was 31% higher than in 2023/24

In brief, the comparative results of the two years are as follows:

Financial highlights	2024/25 £'000s	2023/24 £'000s
Income excluding legacies	13,539	5,184
Legacies	265	573
Total Income	13,804	5,757
Less: Total expenditure	6,387	4,999
Net income before investment gains and losses	7,417	758
(Losses)/gains on investments including revaluation of investment property	(29)	(33)
Net movement in funds	7,388	725
Total funds b/fwd	11,565	10,840
Total funds at the year-end	18,953	11,565

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Gathering resources for the Trust's expanded activities and, in particular, to fund the skilled staff who manage them, is a task that demands considerable time and expertise. Much of the funding is in the form of grants from a combination of sources including charitable trusts, the National Lottery and government bodies such as Defra, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Where these sources prove insufficient, the balance is supplied by voluntary income such as legacies, donations and membership subscriptions. Despite ongoing concerns over economic decline, the year yielded another strong performance. Achievements against fundraising objectives set for the year were as follows:

	Objective £'000s	Achievement £'000s
Membership subscriptions	776	787
Donations	699	2,352
Legacies	250	265

The total number of Trust memberships increased by 3.8% in the year to 9,230 at 31 March 2025. At over £787,022 the unrestricted income contributed annually in the form of membership subscriptions is essential to the Trust's long-term financial stability. Maintaining good relations with our members is at the core of the Trust's ethos and Trust members demonstrate a life-long commitment to our work. Many donate generously to the Trust's work, either to support specific purposes or for use completely at the Trust's discretion. Such one-off gifts underpinned a very encouraging level of donations in the year. Some members remember our work in their wills and have contributed significantly to annual legacy income which, although it is a volatile source of funds, has averaged more than £313,000 over the last ten years. These sources of voluntary income don't just enable us to do many things which would not otherwise be possible but are also vital to the Trust's long-term financial health. The Trust aims for a long-term relationship with its supporters, takes a non-aggressive approach to fundraising and is protective of the data provided to it by each individual.

Financial Reserves Policy and Investment Performance

The objective of the Trust's investment policy is to avoid the erosion of its reserves by inflation and thereby increase the value of its assets to make more funds available to benefit wildlife. To this end, it invests funds for the longer term which are not needed to meet short-term cash requirements and, in so doing, it will not knowingly invest in entities whose activities may reasonably be perceived to be contrary to the objects of the Trust.

The Trust's investment portfolio is managed by CCLA as part of the COIF Charities Investment Funds. The objective of those funds is to produce a long-term total return, before costs, of CPI plus 5%. CPIH for the year was 2.6%. Unfortunately, the actual performance showed a loss in investment mostly due to unfavourable market conditions. Total return performance for the funds are as following:

COIF Investment Fund -1.98%

COIF Ethical Fund -1.46%

Overall, the Trust's long-term investment portfolio, not including the investment property, produced a loss of £29,275 during the year (2023/24 - £76,842 net surplus). At 31 March 2025, the combined total of the investment portfolio and Lunds Farm, the Trust's investment property, was £1,283,912 (31 March 2024 - £1,313,187).

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Review of Financial Reserves

The Trust's Financial Reserve Policy recognises the need for a free reserve which is sufficient to manage the risks and fluctuating financial needs of the Trust and the importance of this policy is clearly demonstrated by the level of UK inflation and the related instability in the economy. The Trust defines its free reserves as those which are readily available, thus excluding fixed assets, and not restricted or designated to particular purposes. The recommended target for this reserve is reviewed annually. At 31 March 2025 free reserves were £624,249 (31 March 2024 - £790,276), which the trustees consider is adequate.

	2024/25	2023/24
	£'000s	£'000s
Restricted funds held as fixed assets, mainly nature reserves	10,527	4,234
Restricted funds held as current assets	4,199	2,857
Endowment funds	75	78
Designated funds held as investments	704	774
Designated funds held as current assets	720	730
Unrestricted funds held as fixed assets / investments	2,104	1,962
Unrestricted funds held as current assets	-	140
Free reserves	624	790
Total funds at the year-end	18,953	11,565

Restricted and designated funds held as fixed assets (primarily nature reserves and buildings) are expected to be retained by the Trust in order to carry out its charitable objectives. Restricted funds that are held as current assets tend to be received as "one-off" donations and legacies without any absolute restriction on their use. The Trustees have designated them in accordance with the donors' general preferences and are expected to be expended as appropriate opportunities arise. In the case of funds designated to the purchase of nature reserves it can be a number of years before suitable land becomes available.

The economic uncertainties for 2025/26 and beyond underline the need to safeguard financial resources that will be essential in future years. To this end, some amounts have been designated to provide for some of the future needs presented by issues such as changes to agri-environment grant schemes, the impact of ash die-back on the Trust's nature reserves and the importance of being able to respond quickly when there are opportunities to protect additional areas of wildlife habitat.

Further details of the restricted, designated and endowment funds are provided in notes 22 to 26 of the accounts.

Risk Management and Fundamental Uncertainties

The Senior Management Team and Audit & Resources Committee conducted an in-depth Risk Management Review on behalf of the Board as part of the annual planning and budgeting process and in line with Charity Commission Guidance CC26: Charities and Risk Management. This was then submitted to the Board for discussion and approval. Major risks to the organisation were identified as: Reputation; Safeguarding; Cyber Security; Inflation (resulting in increased costs, and potential impacts on donations due to the cost of living crisis), Fraud or error by staff or trustees, and loss of key staff (especially the CEO). GDPR was escalated from a minor to a moderate risk and a review of the types of data we hold on staff and volunteers, and whether or not this meets the definition of "sensitive" data was flagged as a priority action for the 2025-2026 financial year. A new risk was identified around Partnerships, linked to reputational risk and mainly around Green Finance where we might potentially be perceived as 'greenwashing'; the integrity and long-term success of newly emerging initiatives and opportunities remains uncertain at this stage.

Systems and procedures in place to minimise or manage identified risks were also evaluated as part of the review. Consideration of the risks to which the charity is exposed is reviewed quarterly by the Audit & Resources Committee and at each meeting of the Board of Trustees.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees' reviews of the adequacy of the Financial Reserve include consideration of the Trust's expected working capital requirements and significant risks to major income sources including reductions in legacies, grants and donations or a major reduction in Trust membership. The Trustees are also conscious of the continuing uncertainties surrounding agri-environment grant schemes and are actively monitoring the situation and any likely effects on the Trust's income.

Overview

Despite ongoing economic uncertainties, Cumbria Wildlife Trust continues to grow and much has been achieved in 2024/25. Much of the success is due to the generosity of members and other donors and to the hard work and ingenuity of staff and volunteers. The Trustees acknowledge the collective effort required to produce another productive year and congratulate the Chief Executive and his staff and many volunteers for this achievement.

Strategic report

The information above including Objectives and Activities, Main Achievements of the year and Financial review forms the Strategic report for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

Cumbria Wildlife Trust is a registered charity (charity number 218711) incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (company number 00724133) and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Trust was formed in 1962 as the Lake District Naturalists' Trust and on local government re-organisation in 1974 it changed its name to the Cumbria Naturalists' Trust. It changed its name again in 1981 to the Cumbria Trust for Nature Conservation and finally, in 1989, to Cumbria Wildlife Trust Limited.

The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees. A Treasurer, a Secretary and the Chairs of the Trust's Conservation and Development Committees are appointed, as Trustees, by the Board. Eight individual Trustees are elected by the Trust's members. The Board may co-opt up to two additional trustees. Following the recommendations from a governance review, the Board is planning to evolve the Conservation and Development Committees into an Advisory network of experts, to enable Trust members to participate more meaningfully in our governance; the Trust's governing document will be revised accordingly. The network will consist of people close to the Trust, to undertake 'deep-dives' into issues referred by the Board, on a task and finish basis and should be completed next year. Two other Committees report directly to the Board, the Audit & Resources Committee and the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee. The Board, which meets at least six times a year, elects one of its number as Chair. The Trustees have adopted the Charity Governance Code and are guided by its principles and recommended practice for good governance.

The Chief Executive is responsible to the Chair and attends and reports to all meetings of the Board. The Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Trust, particularly through the annual planning process, and for approving various matters when they exceed set authority limits. Day-to-day management is delegated to the Chief Executive and, through him, to the Directors which in addition to the Chief Executive comprises the Director of Nature Recovery, Director of Development & Community and Director of Finance & Resources. The Directors also report regularly to relevant committees of the Board.

Together with the Trustees, the Chief Executive and Directors are the Trust's key management personnel. The remuneration of the Chief Executive and Directors is reviewed annually with reference to the annual rate of inflation and to the remuneration of similar posts in other organisations.

During the year, Cumbria Wildlife Trust Limited had one subsidiary, Wildlife Cumbria Ltd, which has been dormant since 2003.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust Environmental Body

Cumbria Wildlife Trust is registered as an 'Environmental Body' which enables it to receive and distribute funds made available by landfill operators through the landfill tax credit scheme. Its income for the year was £400,428 (2023/24 - £15,718).

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees

The Trustees of Cumbria Wildlife Trust during the year are listed in the Legal and Administrative Information at the beginning of this report. Any member of the Trust not disqualified by law or other regulation can become a Trustee and nominations for Individual Trustees are submitted to the Annual General Meeting (AGM); those elected serve a four-year term. The Trust operates an eight-year rule for both Appointed and Individual Trustees. Individual Trustees are eligible to serve for two consecutive four-year terms before they must stand down. The Board of Trustees has discretion to extend the term of the Chair or any Appointed Trustee by up to four additional years.

The eight-year rule results in a regular turnover of Trustees and an ongoing process of re-vitalisation with new blood. It is rare for there to be a contested election at the AGM and the normal procedure is to carry out a regular skills audit of Trustees in order to identify skills gaps which may arise from Trustee resignations or from operation of the eight-year rule. Vacancies for Individual Trustees are often filled initially by the co-option of suitably skilled candidates who are then eligible for election at the following AGM.

Most new Trustees are longstanding Trust members and active volunteers with proven understanding of the purpose of the organisation. A formal induction process is undertaken by new Trustees who are provided with reference materials which include Charity Commission guidance. Quarterly activity reports are provided by staff to the Trustees and Board meetings include regular briefings by specialist staff on their specific areas of activity. Other ongoing training needs are met as they are identified.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust's Policies

The Board of Trustees has established a suite of policy statements. These include strategic policies such as Nature Reserve Acquisition, Volunteering, Safeguarding and Financial Reserves, and operational policies, for example, Equal Opportunities, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Health and Safety, and Ethical Fundraising. Policies are updated on a three or five-year basis and new policies are added when necessary. In the interests of openness, policies are available to members and the public on request.

Associated Organisations

Cumbria Wildlife Trust is an independent autonomous charity. Each county in England and Wales, or in some instances a group of counties, has a similar charity which, together with sister charities in Scotland and Northern Ireland, come together to form The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT), known collectively as 'The Wildlife Trusts'. As an autonomous umbrella charity established to conserve nature nationally and support individual Wildlife Trusts, RSWT represents the individual Wildlife Trusts on a national basis and employs staff with national responsibilities.

The individual Wildlife Trusts work together both nationally and regionally to benefit wildlife although each Trust retains its independence and autonomy. The three Wildlife Trusts in the northwest region: Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire, work together on a small number of projects as 'The North West Wildlife Trusts', in partnership but not as a legal entity. Seven northern Trusts also meet together to discuss mutual benefit and collaboration. The Trust also works with a large number of other organisations in pursuing its aims and objectives and many of the Trust's conservation projects are operated as partnerships. Partnerships with local authorities, statutory agencies and other voluntary bodies are a hallmark of the Trust's way of working. The Trust acts as the lead partner in both the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership and the Cumbria Peat Partnership.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Cumbria 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:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charitable company will continue in operation
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements

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

So far as each of the Trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

- a) there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditor is unaware, and
- b) the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

The Auditor, Saffery LLP, will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Trustees on 2 October 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Philip Byle
Registered office:
Plumgarths
Crook Road
Kendal
Cumbria
LA8 8LX

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
AUDITOR'S REPORT
CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Cumbria Wildlife Trust (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Consolidated statement of financial activities, Consolidated balance sheet, and Consolidated cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 March 2025 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the 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 the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
AUDITOR'S REPORT
CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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 Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report has 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 their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report and Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 require 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 trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 18, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the 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 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

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent 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.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
AUDITOR'S REPORT
CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the group and parent charitable company operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include The Companies Act 2006 and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
AUDITOR'S REPORT
CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Use of our report

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

.....
Sally Appleton (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Saffery LLP

10 Wellington Place
Leeds
LS1 4AP

Statutory Auditors

Date:

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £	Restated Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:						
Charitable activities	3	937,110	11,377,406	-	12,314,516	4,088,998
Donations, legacies & other voluntary income	4	1,072,602	149,153	-	1,221,755	1,483,962
Other trading activities	5	75,819	-	-	75,819	71,010
Investments	6	178,062	-	2,324	180,386	105,270
Other	7	11,512	520	-	12,032	8,034
Total income and endowments		2,275,105	11,527,079	2,324	13,804,508	5,757,274
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		1,977,209	3,728,437	-	5,705,646	4,343,436
Raising funds		517,488	163,980	-	681,468	655,304
Total expenditure	8	2,494,697	3,892,417	-	6,387,114	4,998,740
Net (losses)/gains on investments	16	(26,179)	-	(3,096)	(29,275)	(33,158)
Net (expenditure)/income		(245,771)	7,634,662	(772)	7,388,119	725,376
Transfers between funds	22 to 25	2,324	-	(2,324)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(243,447)	7,634,662	(3,096)	7,388,119	725,376
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		4,396,063	7,091,359	77,984	11,565,406	10,840,030
Total funds carried forward		4,152,616	14,726,021	74,888	18,953,525	11,565,406

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. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS102.

The notes on pages 26 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Group		Trust	
		2025	Restated 2024	2025	Restated 2024
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	12	1,542,675	1,572,243	1,542,675	1,572,243
Heritage assets	13 to 15	10,578,498	4,157,424	10,578,498	4,157,424
Investments	16	1,283,912	1,313,187	1,284,012	1,313,287
Total fixed assets		13,405,085	7,042,854	13,405,185	7,042,954
Current assets:					
Stock		6,095	7,754	6,095	7,754
Debtors	17	2,150,502	2,117,383	2,150,502	2,117,383
Investments (term deposits)		3,936,707	1,823,159	3,936,707	1,823,159
Cash at bank and in hand		689,097	1,220,890	689,097	1,220,890
Total current assets		6,782,401	5,169,186	6,782,401	5,169,186
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(1,233,961)	(637,884)	(1,234,061)	(637,984)
Net current assets		5,548,440	4,531,302	5,548,340	4,531,202
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year	19	-	(8,750)	-	(8,750)
Total net assets		18,953,525	11,565,406	18,953,525	11,565,406
The funds of the charity					
General funds		1,022,624	1,175,837	1,022,624	1,175,837
Designated funds	22	1,424,134	1,504,168	1,424,134	1,504,168
General unrestricted funds		2,446,758	2,680,005	2,446,758	2,680,005
Fixed asset funds		1,705,858	1,716,058	1,705,858	1,716,058
Restricted funds	23	14,726,021	7,091,359	14,726,021	7,091,359
Endowment funds	24	74,888	77,984	74,888	77,984
Total charity funds		18,953,525	11,565,406	18,953,525	11,565,406

The financial statements and the notes on pages 26 to 46 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 2 October 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

David Sharrod
Chair

Philip Byle
Treasurer

The notes on pages 26 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	7,388,119	725,376
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	121,827	103,278
(Gains)/losses on investments	29,275	33,158
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(180,386)	(105,270)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	(2,850)	-
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	1,659	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(33,119)	(206,662)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	587,327	297,812
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>7,911,852</u>	<u>847,692</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	180,386	105,270
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	2,850	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(92,259)	(152,975)
Purchase of heritage assets	(6,421,074)	(55,043)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>(6,330,097)</u>	<u>(102,748)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year:		
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	3,044,049	2,299,105
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>4,625,804</u>	<u>3,044,049</u>
Cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:		
At the end of the year:		
Cash in hand	689,097	1,220,890
Notice deposits (less than 1 year)	3,936,707	1,823,159
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>4,625,804</u>	<u>3,044,049</u>
At the beginning of the year:		
Cash in hand	1,220,890	635,042
Notice deposits (less than 1 year)	1,823,159	1,664,063
Total cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<u>3,044,049</u>	<u>2,299,105</u>

Note to the Cash Flow Statement: Analysis of changes in net debt

	1 April 2024	Cash Flows	Non-cash changes	31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash	1,220,890	(531,793)	-	689,097
Cash equivalents	1,823,159	2,113,548	-	3,936,707
	<u>3,044,049</u>	<u>1,581,755</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,625,804</u>
Borrowing			-	-
	<u>3,044,049</u>	<u>1,581,755</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,625,804</u>

The notes on pages 26 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Cumbria Wildlife Trust is a private charitable company limited by guarantee. Further information is included on page 1.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of fixed asset investments which are valued at their market value at the balance sheet date. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (Revised October 2019), the Companies Act 2006 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102). The Trustees consider the charity to be a public benefit entity.

Going concern

Liquidity, membership numbers and cost inflation have a significant impact on the Trust's operations. However, the Trust has significant reserves to mitigate any potential drop in Income streams.

The Trust meets its ordinary working capital requirements through its free reserves the level of which is reviewed at least annually to account for identified risks and working capital requirements which are assessed according to annual budgets, forecasts and changes as they occur. At the year-end, the Trust's free reserves were £624,249, which was considered to be adequate by the Trustees.

Having regard to the above, the Trustees believe it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Basis of Consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly-owned subsidiary Wildlife Cumbria Limited on a line-by-line basis. They also include, on a line-by-line basis, the results of the Trust's support groups and affiliate groups, as detailed in note 28. A separate Statement of Financial Activities, or income and expenditure account, has not been prepared for the charity itself as permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

Fund Accounting

Cumbria Wildlife Trust's accounts are an amalgamation of over one hundred individual funds. These divide into legally distinct categories which are defined as follows:

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted or general funds are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Designated Funds

Designated funds have been set aside out of unrestricted funds and are designated by the Trustees for specific purposes.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are funds, subject to specific trusts or conditions, which are declared or made by the donor, or with the authority of the donor (e.g. an appeal). Details of the funds are given in note 23 to the accounts.

Endowment Funds

Endowment funds are capital funds which the Trust is legally prevented from spending and must retain intact as part of the Trust's capital. These endowment funds are held in fixed asset investments and interest-bearing bank accounts to provide income for the Trust's activities.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Incoming Resources

Life and annual membership subscriptions are included in full in the period they are received.

Restricted income is included in the restricted income and expenditure account when the Trust is entitled to the income.

Where the donor requires the sum to be invested to provide income for the Trust's purposes, it is treated as an endowment gift. Endowments are credited to income when receivable.

Donations under Gift Aid, together with the associated income tax recovery, are recognised as income when the donation is made.

Each legacy and bequest entitlement is recognised as an incoming resource once a reasonably reliable estimate of its value can be made and when it is reasonably certain of ultimate receipt.

Grants receivable for activities are credited to income upon entitlement.

Incoming resources in the form of donated assets (other than cash) are included in income at market value and, where appropriate, they are capitalised.

Income from the Trust's lottery is recognised in the accounting period to which it relates.

Contract income is earned from the provision of services to other organisations and is recognised in the year in which it is earned rather than when it is received.

Cash in transit is included as income where it was in the post or was being transferred to the Trust's bank account at the year end.

Deferred Income

Where income is received in advance of the period to which it relates, that income is recognised on the balance sheet as deferred income until such time as it is receivable.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Cost of raising funds comprises the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of other income generation.

Charitable expenditure comprises direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to the Charity's activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources as detailed below.

Governance costs include those costs incurred in the governance of the Charity's assets and are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Support costs include the central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on the basis of staff numbers.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. Costs of providing pensions are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account in the period in which contributions are made, in accordance with FRS102.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation is not provided on freehold and long leasehold land or land acquired by the Trust for nature reserves.

Nature reserves are considered to be heritage assets.

Long leasehold is considered to have a useful life of more than 50 years.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than land and nature reserves, at rates calculated to write off the cost or fair value less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold Buildings	2% to 5% per annum straight line
Computer Equipment	33% per annum straight line
Plant & Equipment	20% per annum straight line
Motor Vehicles	25% per annum straight line

Freehold buildings are depreciated to write down the cost less estimated residual value over the remaining useful life in equal annual instalments.

Intangible fixed assets are amortised at rates calculated to write off the cost or fair value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Computer Software	20% per annum straight line
-------------------	-----------------------------

Donated assets, other than nature reserves, are included at fair value at the date of acquisition. It is the policy of the Trustees to expense minor additions to fixed assets, defined as those costing less than £2,000, in the year in which they are incurred.

Heritage Assets

The nature reserves held by the Trust for the furtherance of its charitable activities are disclosed as heritage assets within the balance sheet. Nature reserves acquired before 1990 were not capitalised at the time of acquisition. They were capitalised in 2010 and were recognised at market value ascertained by the Trustees with reference to agricultural land values at that time.

Nature reserves that have been acquired since have been recognised at cost where the Trust has purchased the asset or the market value at the date the asset was gifted to the Trust.

The Trust's management policy in respect of its heritage assets is summarised in Note 15. 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.

Further information on heritage assets is given in Notes 13, 14, 15 and 31 to the accounts.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at their market value at the balance sheet date with any gain or loss on revaluation being recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period. Current asset investments are deposits which, at the balance sheet date, are available at less than one year's notice.

The Trust's investment property, Lunds Farm, is stated at fair value as determined by an external professional valuation.

Financial Instruments

The company only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in non-puttable ordinary shares.

Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

Useful economic lives of tangible and intangible assets

The annual depreciation charge for tangible and intangible 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. The Trustees do not consider that enhancements to nature reserves made for the purpose of improving their conservation value, or for ease of access, increase their economic value and they are therefore not capitalised. See note 12 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment, and the Fixed Assets and Depreciation section (above) of this note for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

Prior Year adjustment

A gift of land on 30th September 2021 to the value of £252,010 from Mrs Ann Clark was not recognised in the accounts in the year ended 31 March 2022, which constitutes a fundamental error. Therefore, a prior year adjustment to the value of £252,010 increasing both tangible fixed assets and restricted fixed asset funds is required. The prior year comparative figures have been restated to reflect this change.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Restated Total 2024 £
	Notes				
Income and endowments from:					
Charitable activities	3	1,103,664	2,985,334	-	4,088,998
Donations, legacies & other voluntary income	4	1,264,854	219,108	-	1,483,962
Other trading activities	5	71,010	-	-	71,010
Investments	6	102,998	-	2,272	105,270
Other	7	7,534	500	-	8,034
Total income and endowments		2,550,060	3,204,942	2,272	5,757,274
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		1,962,570	2,380,866	-	4,343,436
Raising funds		430,904	224,400	-	655,304
Total expenditure	8	2,393,474	2,605,266	-	4,998,740
Net gains/(losses) on investments	16	(39,774)	-	6,616	(33,158)
Net income/(expenditure)		116,812	599,676	8,888	725,376
Transfers between funds	22 to 25	2,272	-	(2,272)	-
Net movement in funds		119,084	599,676	6,616	725,376
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		4,276,979	6,491,683	71,368	10,840,030
Total funds carried forward		4,396,063	7,091,359	77,984	11,565,406

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. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS102.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Year to 31 March 2025	Unrestricted grants	Restricted grants	Donations	Landfill tax credit income	Other income	2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Inspiring people	-	390,840	27,575	428	2,422	421,265
Creating wildlife havens	525,787	5,479,166	2,085,076	400,000	43,789	8,533,818
Standing up for wildlife	4,670	2,878,661	80,722	-	400,383	3,364,436
	<u>530,457</u>	<u>8,748,667</u>	<u>2,193,373</u>	<u>400,428</u>	<u>446,594</u>	<u>12,319,519</u>

Year to 31 March 2024	Unrestricted grants	Restricted grants	Donations	Landfill tax credit income	Other income	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Inspiring people	-	222,084	14,927	-	7,198	244,209
Creating wildlife havens	433,571	204,381	567,635	-	48,432	1,254,019
Standing up for wildlife	-	1,869,431	151,026	-	570,313	2,590,770
	<u>433,571</u>	<u>2,295,896</u>	<u>733,588</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>625,943</u>	<u>4,088,998</u>

The above grants were receivable during the year and any unspent balances are included in debtors or cash in hand and at bank as appropriate.

4. GENERAL GRANTS, DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	158,682	105,937
Legacies	265,109	573,504
Other grants	11,899	29,165
Membership subscriptions	<u>786,065</u>	<u>775,356</u>
	<u>1,221,755</u>	<u>1,483,962</u>

Membership subscriptions

Subscriptions received	763,693	750,506
Business support scheme	<u>22,372</u>	<u>24,850</u>
	<u>786,065</u>	<u>775,356</u>

5. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trading income	58,917	49,949
Lottery income	16,902	18,588
Fundraising events	-	2,473
	<u>75,819</u>	<u>71,010</u>

6. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest and dividends	<u>180,386</u>	<u>105,270</u>
	<u>180,386</u>	<u>105,270</u>

7. OTHER INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Local support groups	7,068	7,271
Insurance claim	1,650	-
Profit on sale of a fixed asset	2,850	-
Sundry income	<u>464</u>	<u>763</u>
	<u>12,032</u>	<u>8,034</u>

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8. EXPENDITURE

Year to 31 March 2025	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total 2025
	£	£	£
Inspiring people	757,754	224,905	982,659
Creating wildlife havens	1,095,559	205,234	1,300,793
Standing up for wildlife	3,022,569	399,625	3,422,194
Expenditure on charitable activities:	4,875,882	829,764	5,705,646
Expenditure on raising funds	537,107	144,361	681,468
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,412,989	974,125	6,387,114

Year to 31 March 2024	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Inspiring people	616,439	205,011	821,450
Creating wildlife havens	787,704	202,683	990,387
Standing up for wildlife	2,151,173	380,426	2,531,599
Expenditure on charitable activities:	3,555,316	788,120	4,343,436
Expenditure on raising funds	500,339	154,965	655,304
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,055,655	943,085	4,998,740

Support costs are allocated on the basis of the number of full time equivalents engaged in each activity.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8. EXPENDITURE (continued)

	2025	2024
	£	£
ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DIRECTLY		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Personnel costs	2,332,083	1,876,718
Contractors, materials and equipment	2,338,042	1,426,582
Postage, IT and other office costs	29,656	16,219
Grants payable	40,900	123,209
Publications and information	59,325	30,518
Events	8,259	16,306
Depreciation	51,809	56,278
Other costs	15,808	9,485
	<u>4,875,882</u>	<u>3,555,315</u>
Expenditure on raising funds		
Trading costs	8,312	-
Membership scheme costs	357,999	350,398
Lottery costs	9,549	10,685
Fundraising costs	161,247	139,257
	<u>537,107</u>	<u>500,340</u>
 Total cost of activities undertaken directly	 <u>5,412,989</u>	 <u>4,055,655</u>
 MEMBERSHIP SCHEME COSTS		
Personnel costs	215,006	210,712
Membership magazines and other materials	98,362	65,858
Postage, IT and other office costs	14,018	45,061
Depreciation	7,591	1,265
Other costs	23,022	27,502
	<u>357,999</u>	<u>350,398</u>
 SUPPORT COSTS		
Governance costs		
Personnel costs	52,969	42,584
Professional indemnity insurance	3,610	3,507
Auditor's remuneration	22,060	14,754
Other governance costs	939	4,741
	<u>79,578</u>	<u>65,587</u>
Other support costs		
Personnel costs	457,434	468,748
Property expenses	90,931	78,860
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts levy	35,753	34,800
Postage, IT and other office costs	153,728	178,974
Insurance	50,350	38,461
Depreciation	57,785	45,735
Other costs	48,566	31,920
	<u>974,125</u>	<u>943,085</u>

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. NUMBERS AND EMOLUMENTS OF STAFF

Staff costs are broken down as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	2,527,176	2,223,177
Employer's National Insurance	233,187	191,657
Employer's Pension	230,897	192,950
	<u>2,991,260</u>	<u>2,607,784</u>

The average number of employees in the year, analysed by function, was:

	2025		2024	
	Total number	Full-time equivalent	Total number	Full-time equivalent
Charitable activities:				
Inspiring people	17	15	15	12
Creating wildlife havens	16	13	15	12
Standing up for wildlife	30	26	27	23
Raising funds	11	9	11	9
Support	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
	<u>88</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>68</u>

One member of staff received emoluments between £70,000 and £80,000 (2023/24: one). The total remuneration of the Chief Executive and three Directors in the period was £220,564 (2023/24: £232,152).

A stakeholder pension scheme with Aviva is available to Trust staff. Pension costs have been allocated to activities and funds according to the work undertaken by each member of staff.

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION, EXPENSES AND DONATIONS

The total remuneration of the Trustees in the period totalled £nil (2023/24: £nil). Travel and subsistence expenses paid to one Trustee totalled £161 (2023/24: £633).

Donations received from Trustees £3,020 (2023/24: £nil).

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

David Sharrod, the Chair of Trustees of Cumbria Wildlife Trust, was Partnership Director of Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust during the year but exercised no control over the award of grants to Cumbria Wildlife Trust. During the year ended 31 March 2025, the Trust received income from Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust totalling £14,789 (2023/24: £17,964) and paid £nil to Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (2023/24: £nil).

Fiona Southern is a Director of Carrock Landscapes Limited. During the year ended 31 March 2025, the Trust were invoiced and paid £2,500 to Carrock Landscapes Limited (2023/24: £7,000).

A number of Trustees have advisory roles with other organisations but it is considered that these roles do not pose a conflict of interest and are therefore not disclosed.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12. FIXED ASSETS

Group and Trust

	Tangible assets				Intangible assets
	Property £	Equipment £	Vehicles £	Total £	Software £
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	1,497,027	578,760	187,302	2,263,089	33,522
Additions	-	55,707	36,552	92,259	-
Disposals	-	-	(22,976)	(22,976)	-
At 31 March 2025	1,497,027	634,467	200,878	2,332,372	33,522
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	200,839	395,898	94,109	690,846	33,522
Charge for the year	25,589	64,698	31,540	121,827	-
Depreciation on disposals	-	-	(22,976)	(22,976)	-
At 31 March 2025	226,428	460,596	102,673	789,697	33,522
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	1,270,599	173,871	98,205	1,542,675	-
At 31 March 2024	1,296,188	182,862	93,193	1,572,243	-

The net book value at 31 March 2025 represents fixed assets used for:

	Tangible assets			
	Property £	Equipment £	Vehicles £	Total £
Charitable activities				
Inspiring people	-	-	-	-
Creating wildlife havens	29,209	40,699	15,393	85,301
Standing up for wildlife	-	67,937	5,606	73,543
	29,209	108,636	20,999	158,844
Generating funds				
Fundraising	-	19,555	10,068	29,623
Membership	-	-	21,509	21,509
	-	19,555	31,577	51,132
Headquarters	1,241,390	45,680	45,629	1,332,699
	1,270,599	173,871	98,205	1,542,675

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13. HERITAGE ASSETS

Group and Trust

	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2024	4,157,424
Additions	6,421,074
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>10,578,498</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2025	<u>10,578,498</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,157,424</u>

A prior year adjustment of £252,010 increasing Heritage Assets is reflected in the opening balance above.

14. FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ASSET TRANSACTIONS

Group and Trust

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Additions:					
Purchases	6,421,074	55,043	166,346	88,140	-
Donations	-	-	-	252,010	-
Total	<u>6,421,074</u>	<u>55,043</u>	<u>166,346</u>	<u>340,150</u>	<u>-</u>

There were no disposals during the year ended 31 March 2025 (2023/24: £nil)

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15. HERITAGE ASSETS ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

Cumbria Wildlife Trust owns some of the finest wildlife habitats in Cumbria and many of these are of national and European importance. Twenty five of the Trust's nature reserves are scheduled as Sites of Special Scientific Interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Sixteen of the Trust's nature reserves are also of international importance being designated as Special Areas of Conservation and four of these are also Special Protection Areas and/or Ramsar Sites. The recent (2024) acquisition of Skiddaw Forest increased acreage under the Trust's management by a third, which subsequently increased the value of Heritage assets of the Trust to £10.6m. Skiddaw Forest is a large, upland moorland area where the Trust intends to recreate missing habitats of montane woodland and scrub and restore large peatland areas. The Trust manages two of the finest limestone pavements in Europe at Hervey Reserve on Whitbarrow and at Hutton Roof Crag, four of the finest lowland raised mires in Europe at Drumburgh Moss, Foulshaw Moss, Meathop Moss and Nichols Moss and five internationally important coastal sites at South Walney, Eskmeals, Rockcliffe Marsh, Humphrey Head and Foulney Island. Eycott Hill is both a Geological and Biological SSSI. It is the type locality for the Eycott Volcanics Group and is important in understanding the formation of the Lake District. The upland mires at Eycott are nationally important and considered some of the best in the country. Many of the Trust's other reserves are nationally significant such as Clints Quarry, a former limestone quarry; Orton Moss, Newton Reigny Moss, Burns Beck Moss and Hale Moss are all important mossland sites; woodland and grassland at Smardale are also of national interest. Other reserves contain important examples of ancient woodland such as at Barkbooth, Grubbins Wood and Brown Robin, or flower rich grassland as at Bowber Head Farm, Latterbarrow and Waitby Greenriggs.

The Trust has for many years operated a detailed Nature Reserves Acquisition Policy which is regularly reviewed and updated. This requires that land proposed for acquisition by purchase or to be accepted as a gift is itself of significant wildlife benefit or enhances the wildlife benefit derived from land already managed by the Trust or provides a substantial opportunity for biodiversity uplift over large areas. Other matters taken into account include access, ease of management and funding for the purchase and annual management costs. Some of the Trust's existing reserves do not meet the current acquisition criteria. However, there is a presumption against disposal of such sites except where the costs of continued essential management are likely to be considerable or the Trust is not the owner of the land but holds it on a lease or management agreement, or if it is abundantly clear that the site is never likely to meet the criteria of ecological quality and integrity.

The Trust's Nature Reserves Management Policy is directed towards maintaining and/or enhancing features identified as important for wildlife. This entails keeping up-to-date management plans, which are implemented by specialist staff, honorary reserves managers and volunteers, and monitoring the effectiveness of work carried out. Where appropriate, monitoring activities include counting bird populations, annual butterfly transects and assessing plant populations. The policy includes endeavouring to ensure safe access to reserves for quiet enjoyment and educational use in accordance with the Trust's Reserves Access Policy which presumes in favour of open access where practicable. Further information is contained in Note 31 and in the Trust's Nature Reserves Guide, which is available from the registered office.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Analysis of investments at 31 March 2025 by fund:

Group	Investment Property £	Subsidiary companies £	Investment Portfolio £	Total £
Market value at 1 April 2024	510,000		803,187	1,313,187
Net investment gains/(losses)	-	-	(29,275)	(29,275)
Market value at 31 March 2025	510,000	-	773,912	1,283,912
Cost at 31 March 2025	-	-	671,897	671,897

Trust	Investment Property £	Subsidiary companies £	Investment Portfolio £	Total £
Market value at 1 April 2024	510,000	100	803,187	1,313,287
Net investment gains/(losses)		-	(29,275)	(29,275)
Market value at 31 March 2025	510,000	100	773,912	1,284,012
Cost at 31 March 2025	-	100	671,897	671,997

During 2016, the Trust was bequeathed a farm under the will of Helga Frankland. The farm, which at that time was independently valued at £325,000 on the basis that there was a sitting tenant, is not considered to be suitable for use as a nature reserve. It was treated as an investment property to be held by the Trust until it was no longer tenanted. Following the death of the tenant, the farm was independently revalued to £620,000 in 2021/22. In 2023/24, the farm was on the market for sale and the Trust received offers in the range of £510,000 - £550,000. The Trustees considered the lowest offer of £510,000 to be the open market value and revalued the property accordingly.

Subsidiary Companies

The charity held the following subsidiary company, registered in the England and Wales as company no. 01951495, which was dormant in the period.

	Main Trading Activity	% share held
Wildlife Cumbria Limited	Dormant	100

The surplus of the unconsolidated parent is the same as the consolidated entity, being £7,388,119.

Analysis of investment portfolio at 31 March 2025 by category of holding:

	Group 2025 £	Trust £	Group 2024 £	Trust £
Unit trusts	773,912	773,912	803,187	803,187
Total listed investments	773,912	773,912	803,187	803,187
Unlisted investments	-	100	-	100
	773,912	774,012	803,187	803,287

The market values of the Trust's investments at 31 March 2025 were as follows:

	£	% of total holding
COIF Ethical Investment Fund - Income Units	565,460	73.1
COIF Investment Fund - Accumulation Units	208,452	26.9
	773,912	100

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17. DEBTORS

	Group	Trust	Group	Trust
	2025	2025	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	94,787	94,787	448,387	448,387
Grants receivable	1,505,806	1,505,806	884,273	884,273
Prepayments and accrued income	533,346	533,346	761,028	761,028
Other debtors	16,563	16,563	23,695	23,695
	<u>2,150,502</u>	<u>2,150,502</u>	<u>2,117,383</u>	<u>2,117,383</u>

No provision for bad debts was deemed necessary at 31 March 2025.

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group	Trust	Group	Trust
	2025	2025	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	280,621	280,621	317,318	317,318
Taxation and social security	7,755	7,755	33,566	33,566
Other creditors	31,050	31,150	-	100
Accruals and deferred income	914,535	914,535	287,000	287,000
	<u>1,233,961</u>	<u>1,234,061</u>	<u>637,884</u>	<u>637,984</u>

	At 1 April	Released in	Received	At 31 March
	2024	in the Year	in the Year	2025
Deferred income included above (Group and Trust)	172,604	(172,604)	775,453	775,453

19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	Group	Trust	Group	Trust
	2025	2025	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
Deferred income	-	-	8,750	8,750

	At 1 April	Released in	Received	At 31 March
	2024	in the Year	in the Year	2025
Deferred income included above (Group and Trust)	8,750	(8,750)	-	-

Deferred income (note 18 and 19) includes grant and contract income received prior to commencement of the related activities. In addition, note 18 also includes payments made in advance for entries for the Trust's lottery.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

20. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	Group 2025 £	Trust 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Trust 2024 £
Financial assets at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities:				
Investments	773,912	774,012	803,187	803,287
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost:				
Investments (term deposits)	3,936,707	3,936,707	1,823,159	1,823,159
Cash at bank and in hand	689,097	689,097	1,220,890	1,220,890
Trade debtors	94,787	94,787	448,387	448,387
Other receivables	1,522,369	1,522,369	907,968	907,968
	<u>6,242,960</u>	<u>6,242,960</u>	<u>4,400,404</u>	<u>4,400,404</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:				
Trade creditors	280,621	280,621	317,318	317,318
Other creditors	38,805	38,905	33,566	33,666
	<u>319,426</u>	<u>319,526</u>	<u>350,884</u>	<u>350,984</u>

The fair value of the financial assets at the balance sheet date has been based on the market price.

21. TRADING SUBSIDIARY - WILDLIFE CUMBRIA LIMITED

The Trust has one wholly-owned trading subsidiary which is incorporated in England and Wales as company registration no. 01951495.

Balance Sheet	2025 £	2024 £
Debtors	100	100
Total current assets	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Net Assets	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Capital and Reserves	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

22. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The unrestricted income funds of the Trust include the following designated funds which have been put aside out of unrestricted funds by the Trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Designated this year	Utilised/ realised	Transfers	Transfer to Fixed Asset purchase	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated for:						
Buildings, Vehicles & Equipment	18,402	-	-	-	-	18,402
Creating Wildlife Havens	761,483	7,882	(182,851)	54,924	(3,242)	638,196
Standing up for Wildlife	724,283	126,957	(28,780)	(54,924)	-	767,536
	<u>1,504,168</u>	<u>134,839</u>	<u>(211,631)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,242)</u>	<u>1,424,134</u>

Where a donor has not restricted a donation but has indicated a preference for the way in which a legacy or other donation is to be spent, the Trust designates such amounts to specific purposes in accordance with the donor's wishes. The Trust's numerous designated fund balances at the end of the period, as summarised above, are held for the following purposes:

Buildings, Vehicles and Equipment - for the purchase or maintenance of the Trust's buildings and equipment. Funds held as current assets are expected to be expended during the next two years.

Creating Wildlife Havens - for the purchase and management of the Trust's nature reserves. Current assets will be expended as suitable opportunities arise.

Standing up for Wildlife - for the Trust's conservation work other than the purchase and management of the Trust's nature reserves. Expenditure of these funds is planned to take place over the next three years.

The value of Fixed Assets shown above includes Heritage Assets and Investments.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

23. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Fund name	At 1 April 2024 - restated				At 31 March 2025	
	Current assets	Fixed assets	Income	Expenditure	Current assets	Fixed assets
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Creating Wildlife Havens	1,236,682	3,966,555	8,006,793	316,166	2,584,649	10,309,215
Standing Up for Wildlife	1,288,531	113,535	2,957,903	2,967,346	1,304,406	88,217
Living Seas	168,905	31,159	-	36,493	143,409	20,162
Inspiring people	152,355	244	417,713	413,435	156,877	-
Conservation Legacy Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Funds	10,872	122,521	149,673	163,980	9,741	109,345
Restricted funds total	2,857,345	4,234,014	11,532,082	3,897,420	4,199,082	10,526,939

The Trust's restricted funds have been received from a variety of donors as grants or donations to support the Trust's work of protecting or enhancing wildlife species and habitats and educating others to do the same. Except where anonymity has been requested, the principal donors in this financial period are listed in note 32 and the activities to which the grants are restricted are as listed in the table above. Where funds have been received in advance of expenditure, it is expected that they will be expended within one year of receipt and they are therefore held by the Trust in readily accessible interest-bearing accounts. Where funds have been applied to purchase land or equipment, the value at the balance sheet date is shown in the column headed Fixed Assets. Further details of individual funds are available from the Trust's registered office.

A prior year adjustment of £252,010 increasing restricted and reducing unrestricted funds is reflected in the Current assets opening balance above.

24. PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	At 1 April 2024	Investment Income	Gain/(Loss) on reval'n	Transfers to General funds	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Mary Miles: any sums over £5,000 for general Trust use	5,000	237	-	(237)	5,000
Kirby Fund: income for general Trust use	72,984	2,087	(3,096)	(2,087)	69,888
	77,984	2,324	(3,096)	(2,324)	74,888

Transfers are made to unrestricted funds from endowment funds where the income earned on the fund is not subject to any restrictions.

25. TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

Transfers have been made from unrestricted funds to designated funds to safeguard funds for specific purposes identified by the Trustees. In 2024/25 the Trustees transferred £134,839 from unrestricted funds to designated funds for future expenditure.

Transfers are made to unrestricted funds from endowment funds where the income earned on the fund is not subject to any restrictions.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

26. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUNDS

At 31 March 2025 (Group)

	Unrestricted funds	Designated Funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	1,594,234	-	10,526,939	-	12,121,173
Fixed Asset Investments	510,000	704,024	-	69,888	1,283,912
Current Assets	1,858,210	720,109	4,199,082	5,000	6,782,401
Current Liabilities	(1,233,961)	-	-	-	(1,233,961)
Liabilities: falling due after one year	-	-	-	-	-
	2,728,483	1,424,133	14,726,021	74,888	18,953,525

At 31 March 2024 (Group) restated

	Unrestricted funds	Designated Funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	1,495,653	-	4,234,014	-	5,729,667
Fixed Asset Investments	466,238	773,965	-	72,984	1,313,187
Current Assets	1,576,638	730,203	2,857,345	5,000	5,169,186
Current Liabilities	(637,884)	-	-	-	(637,884)
Liabilities: falling due after one year	(8,750)	-	-	-	(8,750)
	2,891,895	1,504,168	7,091,359	77,984	11,565,406

The net assets stated above are also those of the Trust. However, unrestricted funds of the Trust include an additional £100 of investments and £100 of current liabilities due to its investment in its dormant subsidiary.

27. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

None.

28. LOCAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Trust has six local support groups based across Cumbria which organise events and raise money for the Trust. The Trust also has special interest groups comprised of individuals interested in a particular aspect of nature conservation. Those groups which raised or spent funds using separate bank accounts during 2024/25 have prepared accounts to 31 March 2025. These figures are summarised below and have been incorporated into the Trust's financial statements within cash at bank and in hand.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2025 £
Local support groups	3,878	5,985	5,481	4,382
Special interest groups	21,021	1,089	540	21,570
	24,899	7,074	6,021	25,952

29. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The Trust is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The liability of each member is limited to a maximum of £1.

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

30. ENVIRONMENTAL BODY

The Trust has been approved as an Environmental Body (reg. no. 093225) for the purpose of handling and distributing funds made available by landfill operators under current legislation. Under that legislation a government agency, 'ENTRUST', oversees the operations of Environmental Bodies and applies a levy to fund its own operations. The movement of funds (including opening balances) is included in the SOFA and Consolidated Balance Sheet. Details of the income and expenditure on a cash basis for the year, before consolidation, are summarised below:

Income & Expenditure Account	2025	2024
	£	£
Transfers in from other Environmental Bodies	400,428	15,718
Grants distributed	(407,670)	(5,624)
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	(7,242)	10,094

Balance Sheet	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank balances	-	2,239
Debtors	16,146	15,718
Current assets	16,146	17,957
Net assets	16,146	17,957
Represented by:		
Accumulated revenue surplus brought forward	17,957	7,863
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(7,242)	10,094
Accumulated revenue surplus carried forward	10,715	17,957

Movement in funds held for expenditure on projects by Cumbria Wildlife Trust during the Year

	CWMET	Total
	£	£
Income received from other environmental bodies	400,428	400,428
Income available after payment of Entrust levies	400,428	400,428
Income available from previous years	17,957	17,957
Total income available	418,385	418,385
Expenditure on projects by Cumbria Wildlife Trust	(407,670)	(407,670)
Funds held at 31 March 2025	10,715	10,715

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

31. NATURE RESERVES AT 31 MARCH

Cumbria Wildlife Trust started managing nature reserves as early as 1963 and has continued acquiring reserves ever since. It currently manages 49 reserves extending to 4,555 hectares. 2,497 hectares are owned by the Trust whilst 2,057 hectares are held under lease, licence or management agreement. The reserves are distributed across the county and cover most Cumbrian habitats including raised mires, limestone pavements, coastal sites, woodlands, grasslands and wetlands. The following table includes details of all of the Trust's nature reserves.

Reserve name	Owned (O) Leased (L)	Purchase (P) or Gift (G)	Date of Acquisition	Area Hectares	Grid Ref.	Main Habitat
Allan Wilson	O	P	1987	1.8	NY457526	Woodland
Argill Woods	O	P	1984/1986	7.4	NY844141	Woodland
Augill Pasture	L		1998/2000	2.8	NY817147	Grassland
Barkbooth Lot	O/L	G/P	1975/2004/07/	27.3	SD415906	Grassland/Woodland
Boathouse Field	O	G	1979	0.7	NY253231	Carr
Bowber Head Farm	O	G/P	2020/2023	36.6	NY736033	Grassland
Bowness-On-Solway	O	G	1966/1976	7.3	NY207618	Scrub/Open Water
Brown Robin	O	G	1977	26.9	SD415790	Woodland
Burns Beck Moss	O	P	1995	15.1	SD595880	Mire
Christcliff	O	G	1984	0.4	NY185007	Mire
Clawthorpe	O	G	1996	2.0	SD535781	Grassland
Clawthorpe Fell	L		2021	11.3	SD537787	Limestone Pavement
Clints Quarry	O	P	1984	9.2	NY009124	Quarry
Cold Springs	O	P	1984	15.7	NY009124	Quarry
Drumburgh Moss	O	P	1981/2013	132.5	NY256590	Mire
Dubbs Moss	O	P	1972	7.4	NY104288	Grassland
Enid Maples	O	G	1970	2.8	SD526897	Woodland
Eskmeals	L		1971	67.0	SD087944	Sand Dune
Eycott Hill	O	P	2013	216.0	NY387295	Upland Mosaic
Foulshaw Moss	O	P	1998/2000/201 7/ 2023/2024	368.0	SD460820	Mire
Foulney Island	L		1974	145.7	SD243655	Shingle Island
Gosling Sike Farm	O	G	2009 to 2012	14.6	NY416039	Grassland/Woodland
Grubbins Wood	L		1975	9.3	SD445780	Woodland
Hale Moss	O	P	1972	2.9	SD510776	Fen
Hervey	O/L	P	1970	100.0	SD442871	Grassland/Pavement
Holme Park Quarry	L		2021	4.8	SD538782	Grassland/Scrub
Howe Ridding Wood	L		1998	28.8	SD435876	Woodland
Humphrey Head	L		1992	23.0	SD391738	Cliff/Grassland
Hutton Roof	O	P/G	1977/1992	99.0	SD550780	Grassland/Pavement
Ivy Crag Wood	O	G	1969	1.6	NY245265	Woodland
Juniper Scar	O	G	1986	0.4	NY475012	Scrub
Latterbarrow	O	P	1986	4.0	SD440828	Grassland
Lowick Common	O	G	2017	106.0	SD290846	Grassland
Meathop Moss	O/L	P	1963/1998/200	84.7	SD445820	Mire
Newton Reigny	O	G	1969	0.3	NY478312	Fen
Next Ness	O	P	1991	2.0	SD302787	Woodland
Nichols Moss	O	P	2000/2021	12.6	SD430830	Mire
Orton Moss	O/L	G	1979/1997/200	18.1	NY338543	Woodland
Park Wood	L		1998	14.7	SD567781	Woodland/Grassland
Rockcliffe Marsh	L		1969	1,120.0	NY340637	Saltmarsh
Skiddaw Forest	O	P	2024/2025	1,214.0	NY279302	Montane/Grassland/Mire
Smardale Gill	O	P	1978/1991/201	49.3	NY703054	Woodland/Grassland
South Walney	L		1963	487.0	SD215620	Shingle
Staveley Woodlands	O/L	P/G	1969/95/2000/	23.0	SD477984	Woodland
Tarn Sike	O	P	1981	2.6	NY665076	Grassland/Scrub
Thacka Beck	L		2011	5.9	NY507307	Woodland
Waitby Greenriggs	O	P	1981	4.4	NY757086	Grassland
Willow Pond	O	G	1982	0.2	NY346002	Pond
Wreay Woods	L		1990	17.7	NY444500	Woodland

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

32. SUPPORTERS OF CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST

The many achievements in the year would not have been possible without generous and wide-ranging financial assistance from the Trust's supporters. Thanks go to individual members, corporate members, donors, grant- giving organisations and legators. Some of those supporters are listed below.

Contributors of grants, donations etc. during the year:

Aviva Community Fund	National Lottery Heritage Fund
Banister Charitable Trust	Natural England
Buglife	North Pennines National Landscape
Copeland Community Fund	Northumberland County Council
Cumberland Council	Northumberland National Park Authority
Cumbria Community Foundation	Penrith Town Council
Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust	RSWT
Dignity in Dementia	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Defra	Rural Payments Agency
Durham County Council	Sea Changers
Ecological Restoration Fund	Solway Firth Partnership
Education & Skills Funding Agency	Suez Communities Fund
Ernest Cook Trust	Swire Charitable Trust
Eden Rivers Trust	The Crown Estate
Environment Agency	The Hadfield Trust
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	The HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
Fibrus	The National Trust
Forestry Commission Garfield Western Foundation	The Rivers Trust
Grange & District Natural History Society	The Victoria Wood Foundation
International Union for Conservation of Nature UK	The Woodland Trust United Utilities
Lake District National Park Authority	Travel Activity Fund
Lowther Estate Trust	Westmorland & Furness Council
National Highways	Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Donations were also received from many Cumbria Wildlife Trust members and other individuals towards a large number of projects,

Legators:

Legacies and notifications of legacies were received from the wills of the following individuals whose generous gifts will support wildlife & wild places in Cumbria. The Trust would like to gratefully thank & acknowledge them and their families:

Sheila Cochrane	Richard Fisher Haigh	Stella Naylor	Helen Walker
Judith Davies	Christine Hornsby	Laurence Parks	
Nuala Dowie	Margaret McCreery	Jane Venet	

Business members and supporters during the year:

Platinum members	Aggregate Industries, Fibrus, Lakeland Limited, Lyon Equipment, Ozone Gliders, The World of Beatrix Potter, Ticket Tailor, The Cumberland Building Society
Gold members	Orosurgeon, The Roselands Charitable Trust
Silver members	Reeds Printers Ltd
Bronze members	Canine Cottages, Cedar Manor Hotel, Center Parcs, HolidayCottages.co.uk, O'Neil Associates, The Original Cottage Company, Sally's Cottages, The Cumbria Grand Hotel, University of Cumbria
Standard members	Campsites.co.uk, Wildroof Landscapes (Cumbrian Property Services), Fern Howe Guest House, Fortis Remote Technology, Langdale Hotel & Spa, Netherby Hall, Phil Collier Associates, TheLakeDistrict.org
Complimentary members	Aerial Artwork, Cumbria Waste Management, Lakeland Trails, 2 Sisters Food Group
Business supporters	Cool Crafting, Crossbank Dental Care, Fern + Fell, Grasmere Gingerbread, Lakeland Trails, Learning and Work Institute, Park Cliffe Caravan Park, PIB Insurance, Planning Inspectorate, Siemens Energy, The Wild Hart, Taylor Woodrow, Wildlife Travel, Wilkinson Cameras, WinYour Dream Hike