

The Covid 19 pandemic had a significant impact on the Trust's activities, with a number of staff furloughed and with most education, outreach and volunteering activities suspended during periods of lockdown. This has resulted in delays to the implementation of some projects and programmes. At the same time, the Trust has played a valuable role in helping people connect to nature during lockdown, notably through the Feed the Birds project and access to our nature reserves.

Snipe

Margaret Holland



Nature recovery

The Marches Mosses BogLIFE project enabled the purchase of five hectares of land at World's End, strengthening the core area of the Fenns, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses National Nature Reserve. It is being restored as peatland in partnership with Natural England. A viewing platform has been constructed and is open to the public. Snipe are breeding on the Mosses for first time in 25 years.

The Stiperstones

An additional five hectares of upland acid grassland has been purchased at Tankerville, extending the buffer around the National Nature Reserve.

Wild Marches

The Trust is working in partnership with Radnorshire, Herefordshire and Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trusts to develop landscape-scale, cross-county projects. Detailed development work is underway with support from The Wildlife Trusts' national team.

Beavers and pine martens

Pine Marten monitoring has continued and funding gained to promote pine marten conservation. An application has been submitted to Natural England for captive release of Eurasian beavers at the Old River Bed SSSI in partnership with Shrewsbury Town Council.

Rivers & catchments

The Slow the Flow project in the Corvedale has been exemplary and the final report will inform the adoption of natural flood management techniques on a larger scale. In the Meverley area and the Corvedale 20,000 trees have been planted with funding from the Environment Agency.

Mapping Shropshire

Work is underway to refine the current ecological network map, validating information on the ground, to produce a baseline for recovery and identify where the optimal areas are to create 30% more space for nature. A member of staff was seconded to The Wildlife Trusts national team to work on a nationwide approach. In collaboration with our branches, 110 volunteers are being trained to carry out ground-truthing surveys.

Pine marten

Mark Hamblin 2020/VSJON



Working with farmers

Biodiversity advice was given to over 350 landowners under the Severn Trent Water contract and through our general operational activity. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Test and Trial scheme was successfully delivered in the Clee Hills – testing farmer's perceptions and understanding of a nature recovery network, to inform the new environmental land management (ELM) schemes.

Climate emergency

We have completed the baseline study to measure our annual carbon emissions. In 2019-20 these totalled 317 tonnes of CO² equivalent (tCO²e) of which 207 tCO²e were from conservation grazing and 110 tCO²e from travel and utilities. The Trustees have agreed a strategy to reach net zero by 2030. In 2020-21 emissions from conservation grazing remained at 207 tCO²e. Emissions from travel and utilities dropped to 29 tCO²e, though this was due largely to Covid and we expect 2021-22 to be higher. We are active in the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership and the Telford and Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership.

Volunteers

The immense support of our volunteers was not completely curtailed during the repeated lockdowns and their efforts resulted in a contribution of over 4,600 hours, equivalent to 658 days across all areas of work.



Feed the Birds adapted to pandemic restrictions, resulting in visits to 41 beneficiaries. Additional funding was secured to provide bird feeding starter kits to more than 600 socially isolated people. This was done in partnership with 15 public and voluntary sector organisations. 100% of those that provided feedback said they'll continue to feed the birds.

Young people

The Growing Confidence project, which works with 11- 24 year olds, adapted within the restrictions of the period. Activities included debates on issues such as HS2, climate change and careers. Lively virtual content on nature activities was generated for families with small children. The Green Influencer Scheme was launched with funding from the Ernest Cook Foundation. This will support groups of children and young people to lead environmental social action projects in their area.

Five students from Mary Webb Science College took part in an alternative curriculum, working on Earls Hill Nature Reserve, where they completed their outdoor first aid qualification and John Muir Explorer award.

The Nature Friendly Schools project enabled more than 100 staff from four schools to receive bespoke outdoor learning training to gain confidence in curriculum-linked outdoor education sessions. In the most deprived areas of Telford 1,710 children benefitted from school interventions, leading to positive behaviour change, social and emotional mental health, well-being, attendance and improved attainment.

The Trust's Natural Childhood team joined Future in Minds, a local authority partnership supporting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing.



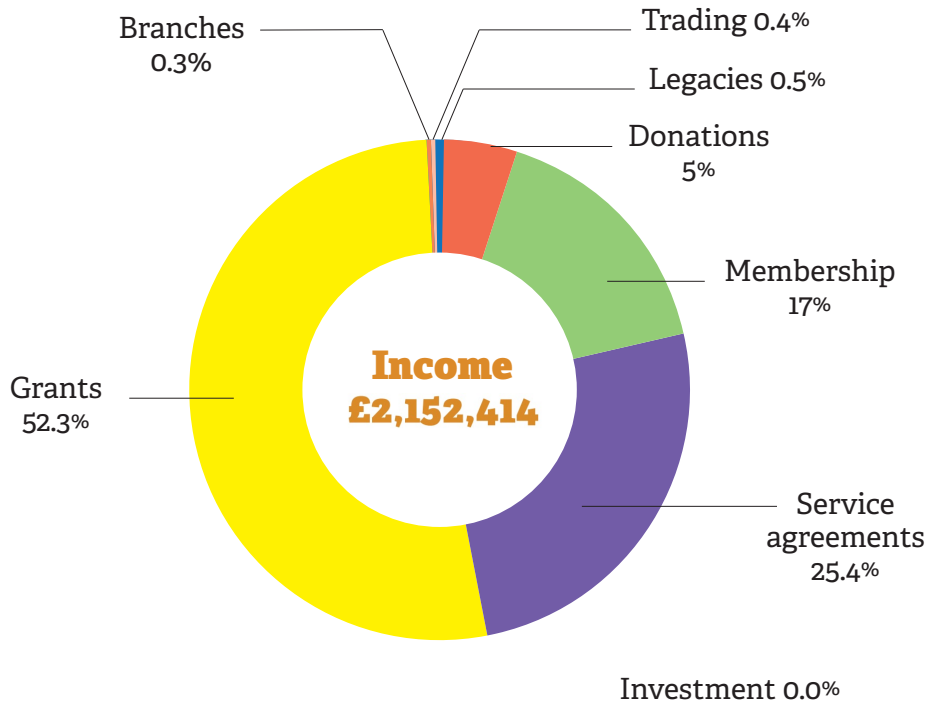
Finance

In the course of the 2021 audit some earlier allocations of income and expenditure were revised to bring restricted fixed assets into line with the correct net book value, to include a previously unrecorded gift of land, and to eliminate a deficit on one restricted fund. A prior year adjustment has been made between restricted and unrestricted funds, which is detailed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

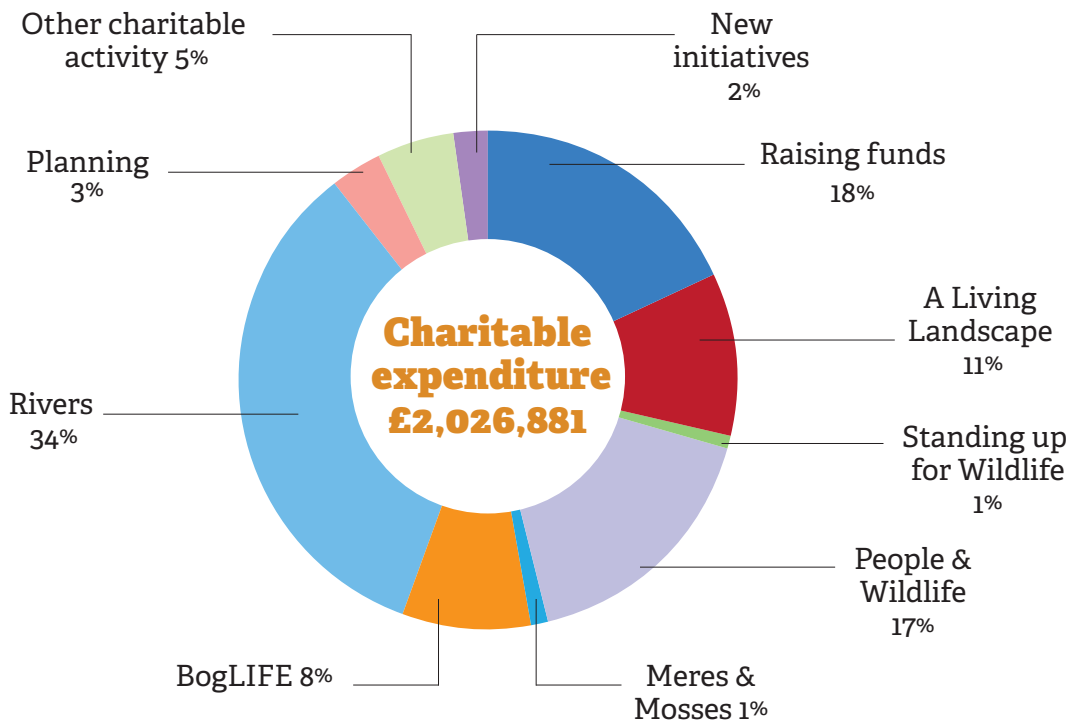
The full Trustees' Report and Financial Statements is available on our website.

Income & expenditure

Income 2020/21



Expenditure 2020/21



Grants and donations

Shropshire Wildlife Trust receives grants from a range of generous funders, for which we are very grateful. The list below is not exhaustive but we would like to thank the following:

Bradford Rural Estates	The Rivers Trust
Britpart	Royal Society of Chemistry
Canoe Foundation	Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts
Daniell Charitable Trust	Severn Rivers Trust
DEFRA	Severn Trent Water
Environment Agency	Shropshire Council
European Regional Development Fund	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
Garfield Weston Foundation	Sport England
Hitachi Capital UK	Telford and Wrekin Council
Invest in Shropshire	The 10:10 Foundation
Millichope Foundation	The Woodland Trust
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	TK Maxx
The National Lottery Community Fund	Tudor Griffiths Environmental Fund
McPhillips of Wellington	Water Environment Grant (WEG)
NLCF Our Bright Future Programme	Whitley Animal Protection Trust
Natural England	Wildflower Society
Potter Group Environmental Fund	

We would also like to acknowledge financial assistance from all our Shropshire Investors in Wildlife/Business Members and business environment network (MMBEN) Members as well as support from Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club, Friends of Pontesford Hill, Friends of Whitcliffe Common, Vine House Farm, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Wildlife Travel.

Thanks are due to supporters of the Tankerville land appeal. 247 people sponsored barn owls, dormice, hedgehogs, ancient holly trees and pine martens.

The following assisted with donations of time and help in kind:

Bridgnorth Town Council, Leo Smith, Mervyn Evans, The National Trust, Shrewsbury Town Council, Shrewsbury Town Fisheries, Tudor Griffiths Group, Upper Onny Community Wildlife Group.

Legacies and gifts in memoriam

Legacies were received from W Kenyon-Slaney and Michael Black. In memoriam bequests and funeral donations were received from the friends and families of AJ (Jim) Wells, Richard Wall, Mike Taylor-Wilson, William Roy Barnes, and Melvin Roy Arnold. Memorial trees were planted for Sue & Ann Owen, Laura Beveridge, Sara Tyson-Payne, Helen Haywood and Sandy Burton.