



Shropshire Wildlife Trust has continued to address the triple threat of ecological emergency, climate crisis and people's disconnection from nature. Despite the ongoing impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic, Trust activities have started to return to pre-pandemic levels, and we ended the year in a stronger financial position.



Working with farmers

We continue to deliver advice to over 350 landowners funded by Severn Trent Water. A follow-on Test and Trial scheme is being planned for the Cleve Hills, exploring how private sector investors might fund environmental work which may not be covered by the new Environmental and Land Management Scheme (ELMS).

We started to expand our land management advice (LMA) offer, to provide paid-for consultancy to enable land managers at all scales, from gardens to whole Estates, to restore and create habitat in response to new ELMS payments and emerging incentives on carbon sequestration and biodiversity net gain (BNG).

Wilder Marches

Further consultation has taken place to define the aims for Wilder Marches and we are now seeking funding to begin the first projects in the Clun and Mortimer Forest areas, in partnership with Montgomeryshire, Herefordshire and Radnorshire Wildlife Trusts.

Beavers

Planning has continued for the UK's first urban captive release of Beavers, in partnership with Shrewsbury Town Council. We hope that the release will go ahead in 2022-23.

Marches Mosses

Embankments and sluices have been installed at Charles Sinker Fields to hold the water from winter flooding on the peatland for longer. An all access hide now offers great views of the wetland. Curlew numbers are increasing at Fenns and Whixall Moss and snipe have been found breeding for the first time in 30 years.

Rivers and Catchments

As part of the River Severn Partnership, we have been promoting natural flood management in the upper Severn catchment and working to restore and recreate wetland and woodland habitat. Proposals have been submitted for the Perry catchment and invites have been received to work up further proposals for the Morda catchment. Early discussions are under way with Shropshire Council regarding follow on projects after the Shropshire Slow the Flow programme.

Standing up for Nature

We continued to articulate the environmental case against the proposed Shrewsbury North-West Relief Road. At the same time, we have welcomed renewable energy schemes where appropriately planned.



Climate change

In 2021-22 our emissions totalled 270 tonnes (estimate based on utilities, travel, and livestock) of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) (2020-21 figure: 286tCO2e), of which 80 tCO2e were from travel and utilities and 189 tCO2e were from conservation grazing (2020-21 figure: 78 tCO2e for travel & utilities and 193 tCO2e from conservation grazing).

Whilst grazing is essential to help us tackle the ecological crisis and maintain or enhance biodiversity on our sites, where feasible we will strive to find alternative or more efficient ways to do this whenever we can. We are active in the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership and the Telford and Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership. Charging points have now been installed so that our petrol and diesel vehicles can be replaced by electric.

Wellbeing

We have developed a partnership with Energize, Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council. Together we recruited a Green Social Prescribing Officer to raise awareness of green social prescribing and build resilience in groups offering activities. We identified priority areas across the county and have undertaken listening exercises which are driving future project actions.

Our Feed the Birds project supported 28 people and developed a new partnership with a care home.

Education and Young People

65 weekly Wildlings sessions were run at 2 locations, reaching 170 pre-school children, their parents and carers. Each week, children and their parents/carers play outdoors, whatever the weather. Respect for the natural world is developed through bug hunting, pond dipping, observing plants or themed sessions on animals. The social element means that both adults and children learn from, and support, each other making them more likely to try new things and take part in outdoor play independently. Isolation is also tackled by providing opportunities for adults to chat and share worries or ideas with a friendly, supportive group of likeminded people.

We facilitated inspirational outdoor learning sessions for 1,500 primary school children from 7 schools and empowered just under 100 school staff to take their lessons outdoors. The legacy of the Nature Friendly Schools project is our new School Partnership, created with feedback from school leaders and our years of experience, it is designed to create lasting culture change and increase outdoor learning across the whole school. Our one-off school sessions, at nature reserves like Wood Lane and after-school clubs in school grounds reached an additional 1,000 primary school children.

We have supported more than 80 Green Influencers from 9 groups to improve the environment for their schools and communities. Around 70% of these groups are from the 10%-20% most deprived areas on the national deprivation decile. Green Influencer-led projects include a litter picking project in Madeley, the restoration of two neglected ponds at Ludlow C of E School and an Eco-Fete fundraising event in Shrewsbury that had 150 attendees.



*School visit to the
Marches Mosses*

Volunteers, branches and affiliated groups

Thank you to all our volunteers, branches, friends' groups and affiliated groups. Activity is gradually recovering after Covid lockdowns and our volunteers contributed more than 19,000 hours, equivalent to more than 12 full-time staff, across a range of work. Feed the Birds volunteers alone delivered more than 3,500 hours.

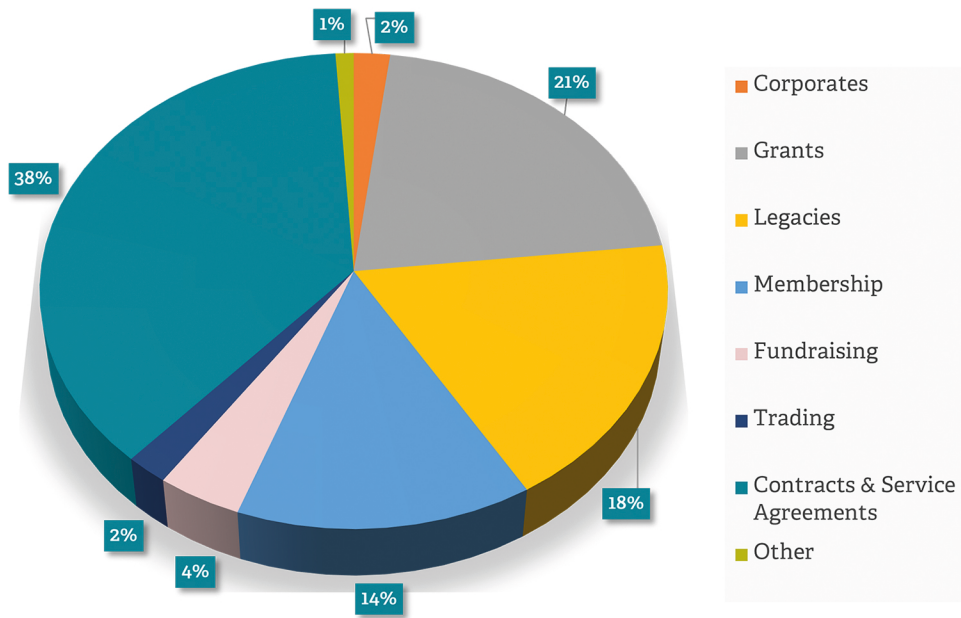
Volunteers are integral to the Trust's ability to deliver our programmes: they help with surveys, practical conservation, outreach work and in a variety of other roles.

Finances

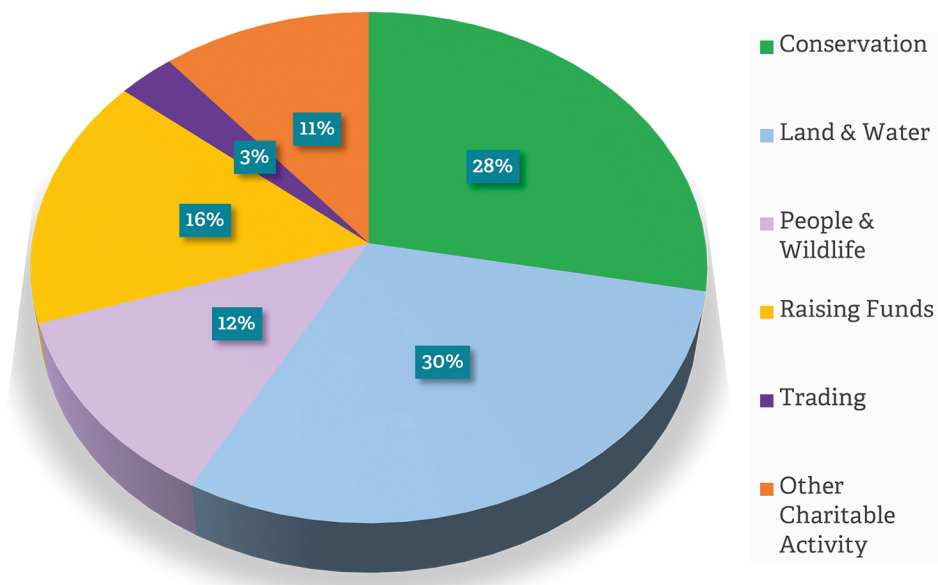
Income was significantly better than planned, due largely to the receipt of two substantial legacies, one unrestricted and one restricted. Our Trading Company (shop and room hire) and face-to-face membership recruitment were largely back to normal after Covid. Digital membership recruitment has continued and is an area to grow. Corporate partnerships and business engagement network ('TBEN') members were stable, but we hope to see a greater return on investment in future. Notable grants were secured in 2021-22 from funders including People's Postcode Lottery (PPL), Garfield Weston and NLHF Cultural Recovery Fund. These were competitive and/or often additional pots to aid covid recovery.

The full Trustee's Report and Financial Statement is available on our website.

Income 21/22



Expenditure 21/22



Grants and donations

Shropshire Wildlife Trust depends on vital funds from a range of generous funders. The list below is not exhaustive, but we would like to thank the following:

Bridgnorth Vintage Machinery Club
Buglife
Canoe Foundation
CJ Wildlife
DEFRA
Dr Pamela Yuille
Environment Agency
European Regional Development Fund
Friends of Pontesford Hill
Garfield Weston Foundation
Idris & Margaret Jones Charitable Trust
Invest in Shropshire
Lyth Hill Residents Association
Millichope Foundation
The National Lottery Community Fund
The National Lottery Heritage Fund

McPhillips of Wellington
NLCF Our Bright Future Programme
Natural England
NHS Charities Together
People's Postcode Lottery
Potter Group Environmental Fund
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts
Scottish Power Energy Networks
Severn Rivers Trust
Severn Trent Water
Shropshire Council
Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
Sport England
Telford and Wrekin Council
Tudor Griffiths Environmental Fund
Water Environment Grant (WEG)

We would like to thank all our members for their continued support. We would also like to acknowledge financial assistance from our Shropshire Investors in Wildlife, Business Members and Business Environment Network (TBEN) Members as well as support from Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club, Friends of Whitcliffe Common, Vine House Farm and Darren Moore.

Thanks are due to everyone who donated to our beaver appeal, as well as the 181 people who sponsored barn owls, dormice, hedgehogs, the hollies and pine martens and those who supported our Feed the Birds Project.

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

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



Hazel dormouse

Legacies and in memorium

Legacies were received from Freda Edith Butler and Dr Niall Kirk.

In Memoriam bequests and funeral donations were received from the friends and families of Jim Ibbot, Joan Chidlow, Cecil Bound, Pam Kenward, Derek Thompson, Rosemary Jackson, Derek Beamond, Danny Edwards, Frances May Jones and Anthony (Tony) Harris.

