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Registration number: 00724133
Charity number: 218711

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

31 MARCH 2026

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CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Patron	Lord Inglewood	
Vice Presidents	Mrs S P Bonner Dr G Halliday Sir Martin Holdgate	Mrs M Sutcliffe Dr A Powell Mrs J Wallen (until 31 March 2026) Dr Peter Woodhead
Board of Trustees	Chair	David Sharrod (until 30 July 2026 Jane Wilson (appointed 30 July 2026)
	Treasurer	Dr Philip Byle
	Company Secretary	Jane Wilson (until 30 July 2026)
	Appointed trustees	Peter Young
	Individual members	Amy Bray Dr Volker Deecke Sheila Gregory Judith Tew (appointed 31 July 2025) Elizabeth Newton (appointed 31 July 2025) Fiona Southern (until 31 March 2026)
	Additional Trustees	Elizabeth Holliday (appointed 26 March 2026) Amelie Pohl (appointed 26 March 2026)
Chief Executive	Stephen Trotter	
Directors	Helen Duxbury, Graham Jackson-Pitt, Julia Sunderland	

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

Auditor
Saffery Audit (UK) 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

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On behalf of all of our dedicated trustees, staff and volunteers at Cumbria Wildlife Trust, I am pleased and privileged to introduce our Annual Report and Accounts for 2025–26. This presents a short overview of the Trust's work and achievements during the year.

This is my sixth and last annual report as Chair of Cumbria Wildlife Trust as my term of office comes to an end. I am proud of the hard work, progress and success that we have achieved together this year, and I believe the report demonstrates strongly how we have delivered our charitable purposes on behalf of the wildlife, wild places and the people of Cumbria.

It has been an incredibly busy and packed year and it is, therefore, particularly important for me to recognise and acknowledge that everything we do and achieve is 'powered' and brought about by people - whether as members, supporters, legators, volunteers or staff or in a combination of these roles. Cumbrian wildlife is so very fortunate to benefit from your support, passion and enthusiasm.

Our nature reserves remain one of the core parts of our work, forming the building blocks for the future recovery of nature across our county. I am profoundly grateful to all of the volunteers and colleagues who help to maintain and improve these vital places. Their tireless efforts ensure these habitats thrive for wildlife and people alike.

A significant focus for the year has been the preparations which will underpin the delivery of our major work programmes on Skiddaw Forest over the coming years. A considerable amount of effort from many people has gone into undertaking research and baseline surveys to assess the wildlife and habitats on the reserve at the moment and planning restoration and recovery. We have started work on securing the boundary fences, getting the multiple permissions and consents we require to undertake peat restoration and tree planting; not to mention establishing four community tree nurseries and beginning the process of seed collection and planting. We have reached a very exciting stage with a major programme of funded peat restoration starting in the autumn of 2026 and the first of many hundreds of thousands of trees about to be planted amongst several other projects on-site.

The long journey towards achieving the 100-year vision has started and I expect that our next Chair will be able to report on major progress in next year's Annual Report.

Beyond Skiddaw, major activities to enhance and look after our network of nature reserves have been progressing well this year with, amongst many others, notable successes for ospreys at Foulshaw; and little terns and coastal waders at Foulney and South Walney.

Our commitment to restoring wild places extends beyond our reserves of course, and again we have worked with partners to restore wildlife on more than 2,500 hectares of land beyond our own boundaries. This is aimed at making Cumbria more nature-friendly through the restoration and recovery of peatlands, wildflower grasslands, wetlands, coastal habitats, sea grass beds and pond creation to name but a few of the habitats with which we're involved. A major expansion of the Gosling Sike plant nursery and seed bank is underway which will greatly increase our capacity to produce plug plants and seed for restoration projects all over Cumbria.

The work of our community team continues to expand across a range of projects and programmes. The highest profile of these has been the ongoing delivery of the inspiring community nature reserve at Cold Springs in Penrith. Meanwhile the amazing Houghton Men's Shed team of volunteers has constructed a new community outdoor shelter facility for use by local groups in need of a quiet green space at Gosling Sike.

The Trust has also been working closely throughout the year with our many external partners for the benefit of wildlife including contributing to the new Management Plans for the North Pennines and Solway Coast National Landscapes, and the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks. The Trust continues to host the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, the Irish Sea Network, Nature North (a partnership of environmental organisations across the North of England), the Cumbria Peat Partnership, and the Cumbria Beaver group.

The Board and our Audit and Resources Committee believe that our underlying finances are in reasonably good shape but as always there is no room for complacency given rising costs and uncertain wider economic prospects. With Government spending constraints and increasing competition for funding, we are constantly

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looking to keep even tighter control of costs, whilst always seeking new sources of income to deliver our ambitious objectives for nature recovery.

Recent experience shows the increasing impacts of climate breakdown on both Cumbria's natural environment and local communities. None of us has quite adapted to the reality that the once familiar 20th Century climate has gone. Like others we need to work out how we should manage our reserves and the wider landscape in this new reality. Wildfire and drought have been high on the worry-list this year, and we need to prepare and adapt to ever more challenging weather in future.

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 through the year.

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 also 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, but 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.

I hope you will allow me the self-indulgence of making a few personal comments as I sign-off and step-down from the role of Chair (but not as a member, supporter and volunteer I hasten to add).

"As we know only too well there are huge existential threats to all the things we care about; and to face them there are no doubt going to be many brave decisions to make and big scary things to do."

"However we could not have better people to tackle all this, with our brilliant volunteers, trustees and staff, with the most fabulous leaders. I will be cheering you on.

"Cumbria Wildlife Trust is making some amazing things happen for wildlife and people, at an increasing pace and scale. There are some tremendous opportunities ahead to really step up our work and our influence even further; as we simply must. These will undoubtedly also bring tremendous challenges. "
Meanwhile as ever my very, very best wishes - keep up the great work all of you and as I always try to remind you, keep enjoying it!

"Above all though, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the Trust and its work in whatever way."

Thank you so much.

David Sharrod

Chair (until 30 July 2026)

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The Trustees, acting as directors of the company, submit their Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.

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.

Raising our game

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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 2025/26. 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.

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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**
1. Continue to protect important ground nesting bird colonies at South Walney, Foulney Island and Rockcliffe Marsh, and employ seasonal engagement and monitoring staff ***Skiddaw Forest:*** *2. Complete preparations and permissions ready to commence woodland creation / landscape restoration programmes in early 2026-27 onwards.* *3. Establish volunteer and community groups and the tree growing contracts / new nurseries to supply our tree supply requirements.* *4. Agree a design monitoring methodology and instigate the compilation of a comprehensive survey baseline.* *5. Complete site fire plans* *6. Secure a Stewardship Agreement and commence re-fencing programme*	*1.* The installation of protection measures against predators over recent years is resulting in gradually increasing productivity levels, especially for vulnerable ground nesting birds such as the Little tern, Ringed plover and Oyster catcher. Seasonal Wardens have helped to monitor the colonies and raise awareness with visitors to reduce disturbance. *2.* A Landscape Character Assessment was written for the Skiddaw tree planting project, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment prior to starting the restoration programme. An archaeological survey was conducted by the Lake District National Park as there are no previous significant site records. A thermal imaging drone survey will inform the planting, by indicating deer pressure across the area. *3.* Tree growing nurseries are established at Bassenthwaite and at Plumgarths, with a polytunnel and greenhouse respectively. Building company Altrad volunteered time to install fencing and infrastructure including raised beds, compost bins and picnic benches. Seeds and saplings are already thriving. We've also set up tree growing at Cold Springs Community Nature Reserve and Gosling Sike. *4.* Bryophyte (mosses, liverworts) and invertebrate surveys have also been completed. Skiddaw is now a trial site for monitoring hydrology on behalf of the Aviva/RSWT group looking at streamlining monitoring protocols and methodologies for rainforest restoration projects on the UK's western seaboard. *5.* Site fire plans are underway, and the Project Manager attends the Cumbria Wildlife Group. A detailed investigation, including pollen analysis and macrofossil analysis of peat cores from Candlesieves Bog has been undertaken by the University of Cambridge. *6.* Detailed Stewardship information has been prepared, ready for Natural England's next application window.	*Continue to protect and monitor important bird breeding colonies at South Walney and Foulney Island, and seek funding for a Seasonal Warden at Rockcliffe Marsh* *Skiddaw Forest:* *Implement the next phase of this major project to re-establish temperate rainforest* *Begin the first stage of the tree planting programme* *Deliver major programme of peatland restoration works* *Complete requirements for Forestry Environmental Impact Assessment* *Submit the Higher Tier Stewardship application and deliver the required tree planting and fencing works* *Continue to develop the effective capacity of our community tree nurseries and explore further opportunities to grow trees for Skiddaw Forest*

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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**
7. Complete fen restoration and eco-hydrology report at Hale Moss; seek funding to implement recommendations *8. Continue dialogue with the Rockcliffe Estate about their ambitious conservation plans, and involve our consultancy* *9. 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* *10. Continue to secure funding for all our nature reserves work* *11. 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.* *12. Continue to deliver the Cumbria County Wildlife Sites project and deliver the 2025-2026 survey programme* *13. Continue developing restoration options for Lowick Common nature reserve, including conservation grazing and pond and wetland creation* *14. Develop a strategic Land Acquisition Strategy*	*7.* The eco-hydrology report for Hale Moss (funded through Farming in Protected Landscapes) was completed and submitted to Natural England. *8.* Unfortunately, funding was not available to continue to employ a Seasonal Warden at Rockcliffe. Several meetings of potential partners have been held to discuss and develop a potential future Solway Landscape Recovery Fund bid. *9.* The Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy was published in December 2025, and work has begun with key partners Westmorland & Furness Council and the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership on planning its delivery; this will be a significant task and priority for the Trust in the coming years. *10.* In addition to securing significant funding for Skiddaw (detailed later in this report) other successful grant applications include: Limestone pavement restoration at Hutton Roof Crags, a conservation grazing project at Hale Moss, and funds to continue our Apprenticeships offer. *11.* Capital works were completed for all CS agreements. Staff are in discussion with Natural England and the Rural Payments Agency about renewing the CS schemes coming to an end. In addition to the Skiddaw application, we worked on new agreements for reserve extensions at Foulshaw and Meathop Mosses, and for Howe Ridding and Park Wood. *12.* Forty eight County Wildlife Sites were surveyed this year (147 since we started in 2024) plus 10 sites were ratified by the panel; the project ended March 2026 and we are seeking continuation funding. *13.* Volunteers undertook bracken bruising at Lowick, to help develop a grassy sward to support future conservation grazing. Restoration work was begun on Little Tarn to recreate an area of open water; further work on creating new ponds is subject to planning permission, Secretary of State approval and consultation with the Commoners. *14.* The Board approved a new Strategy in March, including detailed policy guidelines and updated acquisition criteria.	*Support the development of the Flagship Peatlands project National Lottery Heritage Fund bid* *Continue to explore a potential Solway Landscape Recovery project bid* *Prioritise delivery of the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy in partnership with others through developing our farm advice service, developing and delivering related-projects* *Continue to secure funding for all our nature reserves work* *Ensure continued delivery of four new Countryside Stewardship agreements at Bowber Head, Eskmeals, Orton Moss, Howe Ridding Wood and Whitbarrow* *Complete the County Wildlife Sites survey programme and seek funding to continue and expand the project* *Continue to implement and update our nature reserve Management Plans and monitoring programmes* *Assess potential risks and impact of wildfire, drought, and flooding on our nature reserves and how we adapt/build resilience to climate change*

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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**
15. *Undertake work to make nature reserves more physically accessible especially flagship reserves at Smardale, Foulshaw and Gosling Sike*	*15.* Further funding was secured for access and interpretation: signage and waymarkers were installed at Bowber Head; infrastructure was renewed at Foulshaw Moss to improve visitor access and support educational outreach activities, and work continued on the 'access for all path' at Smardale, Welcome signs, information boards, waymarkers and a new Children's Nature Trail at Staveley Woodlands has already increased footfall.	*Continue work to improve accessibility and complete new access infrastructure at Smardale. Continue our programme to replace and improve reserve signage and interpretation.*
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**
16. *Continue to respond to live issues, threats and opportunities for Cumbria's wildlife as they arise through our advocacy and campaigning work* 17. *Consider our strategic approach to delivering more wilding projects across the county including preparing / reviewing our grassland and peatland strategies* 18. *Work to develop the project pipeline and ensure continuity of income generation to implement the nature recovery network* 19. *Deliver a significant number of new projects going live this year, including:* • *Cumbria Rare Plants* • *Seagrass restoration* • *Red Squirrel Recovery Network (with Red Squirrels Northern England)* • *Expansion of the Gosling Sike plant nursery*	*16.* Despite a national campaign, the Planning & Infrastructure Act weakened essential legal protections for wildlife and risks accelerating nature's decline. We initiated an e-action campaign for responses to the consultation on banning destructive bottom trawling from 41 offshore Marine Protected Areas in England, including two off the Cumbria coast. *17.* Grassland and Peatland restoration work is scaling up: The National Lottery Heritage Fund awarded development funds for a Flagship Peatlands Project to restore damaged peatlands in Cumbria, improve public access, and raise awareness of the importance of peatland habitats. We began reviewing our strategy for Cumbrian grasslands, including for the Lake District National Park Management Plan and how we deliver the relevant elements of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. *18.* Income generation and project development remains a strategic priority. *19.* Gosling Sike (part of Kew Millennium Seed Bank Partnership since 2022) now holds over 200 endemic/endangered species from sites across Cumbria; seeds were sent to Kew for the UK Threatened Flora Project. 25 trained staff and volunteers are assisted by local people to collect, catalogue, grow and plant native seeds. The Red Squirrel project installed 30 nest boxes around Grasmere and undertook grey squirrel control; Reds were observed collecting moss and building natal dreys, indicating breeding activity. A Community Engagement Officer is working with local groups, including at Harris Park in Cockermouth to improve suitable red squirrel habitat. (Seagrass/Gosling Sike below).	*Engage with plans for major water industry reforms under the upcoming Water Bill and with the cross-sector 'Clean Water Now' campaign, to improve ambition for nature's recovery* *Continue to develop a project pipeline and 'ready to go' projects to maximise income generation opportunities* *Deliver new projects:* • *Red Squirrel Recovery Network* • *South Cumbria Water Vole project* • *Wilder Hadrian's Wall nature recovery network* *Deliver the next phase of the Cumbria Beaver Project to support the work of the Cumbria Beaver Group*

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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**
20. Employ a Development Manager to engage key stakeholders and influencers to drive landscape-scale nature recovery along the Hadrian's Wall corridor *21. 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* *22. Offer an integrated Green Finance and Conservation Covenants service and support Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) related activity – and develop our external client base further* *23. Secure further funding for the Irish Sea Network and our advocacy work* *24. Continue to develop and deliver our Seagrass Restoration project. Develop a volunteer group to support the Seagrass project* *25. Deliver engagement work Bay around the Allonby Highly Protected Marine Area (HPMA)* *26. Continue to monitor coastal and marine habitats and species. Address disturbance issues at the South Walney seal colony. Continue to deliver training and engagement programmes for marine volunteers*	*20.* Our Wilder Hadrian's Wall Project organised an inaugural conference with Northumberland Wildlife Trust, attended by organisations from the nature and archaeological communities. It is proposed to set up a nature recovery work stream under the existing Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Partnership, with specific projects such as re-wetting peat and organic soils to benefit nature and preserve important artefacts. *21.* The Farming in Protected Landscapes funding scheme has been extended for another three years and includes the Solway coast; CWT had significant input into the Solway Coast National Landscapes Management Plan which places nature recovery as a clear priority (with resource allocation to deliver) and this statutory plan has strong support. *22.* CWT is now a Defra designated responsible body to enter into conservation agreements with landowners in England. *23.* An 'Our Irish Sea' bid received a £150k grant from Swire Charitable Trust. *24.* The Seagrass project attracted 78 volunteers. 6,000 seeds are in storage at our new facility and 1,000 have been transported to the University of Groningen in the Netherlands for an international comparative germination study. Natural England has invited a full application for a restoration project in the North of Morecambe Bay. The two Conservation Officers won a Best Practice award from the North West Awards for Coastal Excellence. *25.* We secured Lottery funding for an Allonby Bay Engagement Officer (2-year post) to help promote public understanding of the HPMA. Activities included work with local schools, and a screening of David Attenborough's film "Ocean" followed by a Q&A with the marine team. The project supports three west coast Wildlife Watch Clubs. *26.* Cumbria's only breeding grey seal colony began its 11th year with a record number of pups; this success is a result of ongoing efforts to minimise disturbance; this year included press/social media appeals to local sea users (kayakers, anglers, jet skiers, boats) to maintain a distance, and follow the Marine & Coastal Wildlife Code. Our live 'Sealcam' and social media updates were extremely popular. Our team of marine volunteers continued to grow.	*Deliver our ambitious Peatland and Grassland restoration programmes. Seek funding to sustain, expand and scale up our work.* *Continue to explore opportunities to deliver landscape-scale recovery in partnership with others* *Deliver robust Biodiversity Net Gain and Nutrient Neutrality on any suitable land purchase* *Deliver conservation covenants and establish our standing and reputation as a transparent and trusted responsible body* *Secure long-term funding to sustain and expand our marine conservation work* *Develop future plans for the Irish Sea network* *Lead the development of a Marine Local Nature Recovery Strategy* *Continue to develop and deliver our Seagrass Restoration project* *Deliver a biogenic reef restoration feasibility study* *Continue to support our marine champions and volunteers* *Continue to monitor and protect coastal and marine habitats and species* *Focus on coastal adaptation to anticipated impacts of sea level rise and storm events*

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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**
27. Collaborate with other marine internship programmes to recruit for the next intake *28. Carry out a review of the effectiveness of our events diary and make recommendations for improvements to our annual events offer* *29. 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* *30. 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* *31. Continue to deliver nature-based health & wellbeing outcomes through The Bay: A Blueprint for Recovery. Deliver the last season of funded 'Time in Nature' events for people with dementia and their carers* *32. Explore opportunities to engage young people with an interest in nature and climate* *33. Support the establishment of new Community tree growing nurseries to help supply trees for Skiddaw Forest* *34. 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*	*27.* Two internships were successfully completed with projects on monitoring kittiwake nesting on offshore wind infrastructure in the Irish Sea/incorporating nature inclusive design, and a feasibility study into native oyster restoration in NW England. Both interns secured employment, one temporarily with CWT. The next application round opened in March, for a June 2026 start. *28.* A cross-team planning group has been established to co-ordinate and plan our event offering across the calendar year. *29.* We are working with local NGOs to ensure that nature's recovery and climate change resilience is on the political agenda for next year's Mayoral and local elections. A candidate briefing has been drafted, highlighting the economic benefits and promoting resilience to climate breakdown. *30.* The Earnse Bay partnership (led by Natural England) was asked to submit a delivery stage application (£2.5M) to the National Lottery Heritage Fund; feedback highlighted the community volunteer element to be delivered by CWT as a particularly strong element. *31.* Highlights from The Bay include marine-themed activities for a group of older people who rely on carers, a day for teenagers excluded from mainstream education, and a family Easter Egg(case) hunt on the beach in Barrow attended by 135 people; we were the second largest reporter of eggcase numbers to the Shark Trust UK. Three 'Time in Nature' sessions were held each quarter; attendee numbers are increasing. *32.* We attended the Northern Wildlife Trusts' Youth Meetings and RSWT's 'Building the Bridge' and delivered monthly Young Volunteers North sessions; we plan to engage young people with the 2027 elections. *33.* As well as setting up our own tree growing nurseries (see above) we met with Raise Community Woodlands to discuss a potential community woodland at Skiddaw; Raise would manage the planting and grow trees in their own nurseries. We also partnered with therapeutic charity Growing Well to grow trees at Tebay. *34.* We celebrated one year of Skiddaw with a special podcast, held an online talk for members and kept our donors and supporters from across the UK/around the world updated via our e-news and social media channels.	*Continue to support the Marine Futures internship programme* *Support a Marine secondee placement* *Continue to develop our offer and deliver a varied events programme* *Secure a strong voice in economic development discussions, in the context of a new mayoral authority, positioning nature as a driver of lasting prosperity and thriving communities* *Campaign and influence to put nature recovery and net zero at the heart of decision making locally, regionally and nationally in the build up to the next General Election* *Maintain relationships with social prescribing referrers in Barrow* *Improve the accessibility and inclusivity of our volunteering programme* *Develop and deliver opportunities for young people to take action for nature and the climate* *Develop the Gosling Sike Orchard as a community space for training and engagement* *Create a Wilder Cumbria network for Skiddaw Forest and develop opportunities for community engagement* *Continue to deliver communications to Skiddaw Forest supporters*

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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**
35. Develop a new five-year community engagement strategy to maximise our ability to further support individuals and communities to take action for nature. Re-focus our education offer and recruit to the vacant post within the team *36. Explore further external income opportunities for communities and our engagement activities* *37. Continue the delivery of our schools Outdoor Learning work in Carlisle* *38. Continue to seek funding to support training and development opportunities for young people and offer entry level positions for some of our new projects* *39. Recruit for the next intake of young trustees (x2 seats on the Board for young people aged 18-25)* *40. Continue to invest in membership recruitment and retention* *41. Develop our storytelling capability and improve staff understanding of social media communications to engage more people and new audiences* *42. 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*	*35.* Our 2030 People and Wildlife Strategy was finalised in January 2026, to form the basis of the Community Team's work plans over the next five years. Priorities include improving access to nature, developing an offer around outdoor/nature-based learning and using the multiplier effect to widen our impact e.g. through community champions. Other highlights this year include an opening celebration for our Cold Springs Community Nature Reserve, and a European Award for 'Gardening Focused on the Community' for Gosling Sike's dedicated team of staff and volunteers. *36.* Our first application to the National Lottery Community Fund secured £20k for an outdoor meeting space, for use by a wide range of local community groups; it was designed by and will be built by our Men's Shed group. *37.* The Wilder Carlisle Outdoor Education Officer ran a series of Forest School sessions, with teacher training for future delivery; successful outcomes around wellbeing and behaviour were reported. 'Nurture through Nature' after school sessions were delivered though Carlisle Youth Zone offering pond dipping, willow-based crafts and camp fire cooking. *38.* We secured funding to continue our Nature Reserve Apprenticeships and student placements, and provided entry-level opportunities through our Red Squirrels, Peatland, Seagrass and Water Vole projects. *39.* With the help of our first two young trustees, we ran an application and interview process for the second intake; the successful candidates joined the Board in March 2026. *40.* We had an overall net gain of 200 members this year, with total numbers between 15,000 and 16,000 in recent years; any slight gain is offset by attrition. A huge amount of work goes into retention and recruitment to sustain numbers. Membership income, which has increased year on year is more indicative of our success. *41.* We have a dedicated Digital Engagement Manager plus a Content Creator and staff regularly supply content and updates; our social media communities continue to grow. *42.* We decided not to actively promote 30 Days Wild this year as there are few concrete outcomes; we'll assess the numbers that took part and discuss further. The Wilder Gardening campaign is ready for a soft launch in 2026/2027.	*Implement a new Volunteer Management System* *Develop and support community champions* *Develop resources for community leaders and teachers to widen our impact* *Continue to support and grow our Young Volunteering programme and network of Wildlife Watch Clubs* *Continue to support our apprenticeships and placements and offer entry-level opportunities* *Continue to deliver our schools outdoor learning work in Carlisle* *Continue to deliver the Cold Springs Community Nature Reserve Project to engage the Penrith community* *Continue to invest in membership recruitment and retention including digital recruitment* *Celebrate and showcase how local people contribute to nature recovery through social media and on our website* *Champion the impact of Cumbria Wildlife Trust's work and raise awareness of wider societal benefits of nature recovery* *Continue to deliver The Wildlife Trusts calls to action and targeted campaigns*

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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**
43. Continue a Skiddaw Restoration fund appeal and seek further funding to support and enhance the woodland creation and peatland restoration	43. The Big Give campaign raised £180,377 for Skiddaw Forest tree growing and planting. A £500k application to Biffa to undertake peatland restoration on Skiddaw Forest was successful, and will enable us to undertake the full repair of the majority of damaged peatland on the reserve.	*Continue to develop and deliver effective fundraising appeals especially for Skiddaw Forest*
44. Develop legacy and major donor delivery in line with strategies to maximise income	44. Legacy pledges increased by 27% from last year. A series of site visits took place over the summer for Skiddaw major donors, with plans to host a webinar and organise an official open day at the Bassenthwaite tree nursery for others.	*Continue to develop new income streams* *Continue to develop, promote and deliver our corporate offer*
45. Expand and promote our corporate offer including Wild Work days and sponsorship opportunities	45. Corporate sponsorship income was higher than expected. We hosted seven Wild Work Days for major local employers, received 33 enquiries and already have bookings for next year.	*Develop and expand our consultancy services*
46. Expand the Gosling Sike Plant Nursery to generate income	46. Groundworks for the Gosling Sike nursery extension were completed. Work is now underway to install three polytunnels, one adapted to grow wetland plants and sphagnum moss. A biosecurity system is in place, which will be rolled out to all our community tree growing nurseries.	*Deliver the business plan for the Gosling Sike nursery: scale up operations to meet increased demand from projects and develop external supply opportunities*
47. Continue the exploration and development of Green Finance options for our work and acquire at least one site for Biodiversity Net Gain/Nutrient Neutrality	47.Engagement with a complex development process for a Cumbria 'Special Purpose Vehicle' to deliver BNG has honed our expertise in nature finance, with the potential to attract private investment through the SPV and in our own capacity. We are still seeking a suitable site to acquire for Biodiversity Net Gain.	*Continue to horizon scan for nature finance and green finance partnership opportunities*
48. Generate membership sign-ups via online marketing, including targeted promotions and social media	48.Digital recruitment is increasingly important for converting supporters to members, although for CWT in-person recruitment has yielded better retention rates over recent years and we will continue to offer both.	*Further develop partnerships with national infrastructure providers*
49. Undertake a review of our internal communications to support a joined up, integrated approach	49.Several cross-Trust working groups meet regularly, with new groups this year for project management, improving business processes, and digital transformation. A strategic review of internal communications is scheduled for 2026/2027.	*Complete internal communications review* *Undertake an internal review of costs and efficiencies*
50. Implement a review of costs and efficiencies	50. A costs and efficiencies review is scheduled for 2026/2027, to be overseen by the Board's Audit & Resources Committee.	*Continue our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint*
51. Complete an update of the Trust's Articles of Association	51. Work began to refresh our governing document to reflect current and best practice; the updated Articles will be proposed for adoption at the AGM.	*Review and integrate business processes and systems and explore opportunities for improved efficiency through digital transformation*
52. Hold the first meeting of our new Advisory Network	52.An inaugural meeting of a network of Badger's Paw winners was held in September. This group (all long standing volunteers from a wide range of our projects and activities) form a key part of the evolving Advisory Network, and were consulted on priorities for our emerging 2030 Strategy.	

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Fundraising

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.

We received one complaint during this year regarding our fundraising activities. A member complained that we received a grant from the Lake District National Park Authority from their Recharge in Nature Partnership with BMW. They felt that the LDNPA authority should be putting more effort in to public transport than encouraging the use of electric vehicles.

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

Financial Review

The Trust's total income for the year was £6,217,109 (2024/25: £13,804,508), 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.

In the previous year, the Trust acquired a new nature reserve (land at Skiddaw), funded by grants and income from public appeals. The underlying income comparatives are as follows:

	2025/26 £'000s	2024/25 £'000s
Grants	2,647	3,995
Donations	560	392
Skiddaw	811	7,662
Legacies	414	265
Membership	815	786
Other Income	970	704
	6,217	13,804

Heritage assets have increased by £223,346, mostly due to a gift of land at Barkbooth Nature Reserve that was previously leased and managed by the Trust.

Cash and cash equivalents have remained at a similar level at 31 March 2026 compared to 31 March 2025, showing just a small decrease of £1,577.

Restricted funds have increased by £598,973, largely due to a gift of Barkbooth Nature Reserve and a variety of grants and donations to support the Trust's work of protecting or enhancing wildlife species and habitats.

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 2026 to facilitate conservation work in 2026/27 and provide match funding for work that is not fully funded

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

Financial highlights	**2025/26 £'000s**	**2024/25 £'000s**
Income excluding legacies	5,803	13,539
Legacies	414	265
Total Income	**6,217**	**13,804**
Less: Total expenditure	6,137	6,387
Net income before investment gains and losses	**80**	**7,417**
(Losses)/gains on investments including revaluation of investment property	(63)	(29)
Net movement in funds	**17**	**7,388**
Total funds b/fwd	**18,953**	**11,565**
Total funds at the year-end	**18,970**	**18,953**

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	786	815
Donations	381	742
Legacies	250	414

The total number of Trust memberships increased by 1.8% in the year to 9,398 at 31 March 2026. At over £815,325 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 £293,000 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.

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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 4.1%.

Unfortunately, the investments dropped in absolute value due to the way the Fund was positioned. We continue to meet the Fund Managers to review their performance and ensure that the Fund remains the right choice.

Total return performance for the funds are as follows:

COIF Investment Fund -5.69%
COIF Ethical Fund -6.07%

Overall, the Trust's long-term investment portfolio, not including the investment property, produced a loss of £63,345 during the year (2024/25 - £29,275 net loss). At 31 March 2026, the combined total of the investment portfolio and Lunds Farm, the Trust's investment property, was £1,220,567 (31 March 2025 - £1,283,912).

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 and for 2025/26 was set as £475,500. At 31 March 2026 free reserves were £415,953 (31 March 2025 - £624,249), which the trustees consider is adequate.

	2025/26 £'000s	2024/25 £'000s
Restricted funds held as fixed assets, mainly nature reserves	10,771	10,527
Restricted funds held as current assets	4,554	4,199
Endowment funds	68	75
Designated funds held as investments	647	704
Designated funds held as current assets	446	720
Unrestricted funds held as fixed assets / investments	2,068	2,104
Unrestricted funds held as current assets	-	-
Free reserves	416	624
Total funds at the year-end	**18,970**	**18,953**

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. Designated 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 2026/27 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.

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Further details of the restricted, designated and endowment funds are provided in notes 21 to 25 of the accounts.

Risk Management and Fundamental Uncertainties

The risks have been reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team, Audit & Resources Committee and the Board as part of the annual planning and budgeting process and in line with Charity Commission Guidance CC26: Charities and Risk Management. 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.

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 2025/26. 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 the Board of Trustees, the Chair, Deputy Chair (formerly a 'Secretary') and Treasurer. Nine individual trustees are elected by the Trust's members (two of these were previously the heads of the former Conservation and Development Committees). Our new Advisory network met for the first time, and will provide feedback, expertise and input on 'deep dive' topics referred by the Board. Two formal Committees meet quarterly and report directly to the Board: the Audit & Resources Committee and the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee. The Board meets at least 6 times per year (including a longer 'away day' session for strategic discussion) and elects one of its number as Chair annually. Trustees have adopted the Charity Governance Code and are guided by its principles and recommended practice for good governance. In line with changes to Charity Commission law, which made it easier for charities to update their structure and administration, the Trust is updating its governing document to reflect current and best practice.

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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 £568,408 (2024/25 - £400,428).

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

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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.

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 Audit (UK) LLP, will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Trustees on 24 September 2026.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

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

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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 2026 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 2026 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.
We have nothing to report in this regard.

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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.
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.

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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.

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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.

Signed by:
Saffery Audit (UK) LLP
4F568C43DB3B438...

.....

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

10 Wellington Place
Leeds
LS1 4AP

Statutory Auditors

Date: 05 November 2026

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

Docusign Envelope ID: 8E2B82B1-5CCF-8851-8205-7459E728D8A1

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income and endowments from:						
Charitable activities	3	1,137,132	3,457,345	-	4,594,477	12,314,516
Donations, legacies & other voluntary income	4	1,306,560	13,719	-	1,320,279	1,221,755
Other trading activities	5	68,251	-	-	68,251	75,819
Investments	6	175,682	-	2,325	178,007	180,386
Other	7	36,749	19,346	-	56,095	12,032
						-
Total income and endowments		2,724,374	3,490,410	2,325	6,217,109	13,804,508
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		2,555,288	2,853,520	-	5,408,808	5,705,646
Raising funds		690,034	37,917	-	727,951	681,468
Total expenditure	8	3,245,322	2,891,437	-	6,136,759	6,387,114
Net (losses) on investments	16	(56,979)	-	(6,366)	(63,345)	(29,275)
Net (expenditure)/income		(577,927)	598,973	(4,041)	17,005	7,388,119
Transfers between funds	21 to 24	2,325	-	(2,325)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(575,602)	598,973	(6,366)	17,005	7,388,119
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		4,152,616	14,726,021	74,888	18,953,525	11,565,406
Total funds carried forward		3,577,014	15,324,994	68,522	18,970,530	18,953,525

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.

Docusign Envelope ID: 8E2B82B1-5CCF-8851-8205-7459E728D8A1

CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

		Group		Trust	
		2026	2025	2026	2025
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	12	1,527,247	1,542,675	1,527,247	1,542,675
Heritage assets	13 to 14	10,801,844	10,578,498	10,801,844	10,578,498
Investments	16	1,220,567	1,283,912	1,220,667	1,284,012
Total fixed assets		13,549,658	13,405,085	13,549,758	13,405,185
Current assets:					
Stock		3,710	6,095	3,710	6,095
Debtors	17	1,594,361	2,150,502	1,594,361	2,150,502
Investments (term deposits)		3,638,343	3,936,707	3,638,343	3,936,707
Cash at bank and in hand		985,884	689,097	985,884	689,097
Total current assets		6,222,298	6,782,401	6,222,298	6,782,401
Liabilities:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(801,426)	(1,233,961)	(801,526)	(1,234,061)
Net current assets		5,420,872	5,548,440	5,420,772	5,548,340
Total net assets		18,970,530	18,953,525	18,970,530	18,953,525
The funds of the charity					
General funds		792,180	1,022,624	792,180	1,022,624
Designated funds	21	1,092,672	1,424,134	1,092,672	1,424,134
General unrestricted funds		1,884,852	2,446,758	1,884,852	2,446,758
Fixed asset funds		1,692,162	1,705,858	1,692,162	1,705,858
Restricted funds	22	15,324,994	14,726,021	15,324,994	14,726,021
Endowment funds	23	68,522	74,888	68,522	74,888
Total charity funds		18,970,530	18,953,525	18,970,530	18,953,525

The financial statements and the notes on pages 26 to 46 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 24 September 2026 and are signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:
Jane Wilson
B511EC8CA4D24CC...
Jane Wilson
Chair

Signed by:
1EE9BF48A04A4C5...
Philip Byle
Treasurer

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

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CUMBRIA WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	2026	2025
Cash flows from operating activities:	**£**	**£**
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	17,005	7,388,119
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	141,258	121,827
Losses on investments	63,345	29,275
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(178,007)	(180,386)
Surplus on the sale of fixed assets	(8,517)	(2,850)
Decrease in stocks	2,385	1,659
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	556,141	(33,119)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(432,535)	587,327
Gift of heritage assets	(227,400)	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	(66,325)	7,911,852
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	178,007	180,386
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	-	2,850
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(125,830)	(92,259)
Proceeds from the sale of heritage assets	16,000	-
Purchase of heritage assets	(3,429)	(6,421,074)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	64,748	(6,330,097)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year:		
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	4,625,804	3,044,049
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	4,624,227	4,625,804
Cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:		
At the end of the year:		
Cash in hand	985,884	689,097
Notice deposits (less than 1 year)	3,638,343	3,936,707
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	4,624,227	4,625,804
At the beginning 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 beginning of the year	4,625,804	3,044,049

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

	1 April 2025 £	Cash Flows £	Non-cash changes £	31 March 2026 £
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash	689,097	296,787	-	985,884
Cash equivalents	3,936,707	(298,364)	-	3,638,343
	4,625,804	(1,577)	-	4,624,227

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

Docusign Envelope ID: 8E2B82B1-5CCF-8851-8205-7459E728D8A1

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 £415,953 which was considered to be adequate by the Trustees.

The Trust also holds £1,220,567 combined in the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund and an investment property.

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 (a dormant company) 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.
The net movement in funds for the Charity was £17,005.

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.

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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.

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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 30 to the accounts.

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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.

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2. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £
Income and endowments from:					
Charitable activities	3	937,110	11,377,406	-	12,314,516
Donations, legacies & other voluntary income	4	1,072,602	149,153	-	1,221,755
Other trading activities	5	75,819	-	-	75,819
Investments		178,062	-	2,324	180,386
Other		11,512	520	-	12,032
Total income and endowments		2,275,105	11,527,079	2,324	13,804,508
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		1,977,209	3,728,437	-	5,705,646
Raising funds		517,488	163,980	-	681,468
Total expenditure	8	2,494,697	3,892,417	-	6,387,114
Net (losses) on investments	16	(26,179)	-	(3,096)	(29,275)
Net income/(expenditure)		(245,771)	7,634,662	(772)	7,388,119
Transfers between funds	21 to 24	2,324	-	(2,324)	-
Net movement in funds		(243,447)	7,634,662	(3,096)	7,388,119
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		4,396,063	7,091,359	77,984	11,565,406
Total funds carried forward		4,152,616	14,726,021	74,888	18,953,525

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.

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3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Year to 31 March 2026	Unrestricted grants	Restricted grants	Donations	Landfill tax income	Other income	2026
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Inspiring people	-	196,269	23,350	56,969	6,339	282,927
Creating wildlife havens	493,390	303,785	548,323	511,439	94,377	1,951,314
Standing up for wildlife	-	1,704,502	87,642	-	568,092	2,360,236
	493,390	2,204,556	659,315	568,408	668,808	4,594,477

Year to 31 March 2025	Unrestricted grants	Restricted grants	Donations	Landfill tax income	Other income	2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Inspiring people	-	385,837	27,575	428	2,422	416,262
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
	530,457	8,743,664	2,193,373	400,428	446,594	12,314,516

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. Included in the above are restricted grants of £2,204,556 and other restricted grants, contributions and donations of £1,252,789 (2024/25 restricted grants of £8,743,664 and other restriced grants, contributions and donations of £2,633,742).

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

	2026	2025
	£	£
Donations	82,950	158,682
Legacies	414,341	265,109
Other grants	8,465	11,899
Membership subscriptions	814,523	786,065
	1,320,279	1,221,755
Membership subscriptions		
Subscriptions received	811,298	763,693
Business support scheme	3,225	22,372
	814,523	786,065

5. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trading income	50,765	58,917
Lottery income	17,486	16,902
	68,251	75,819

6. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	2026	2025
	£	£
Interest and dividends	177,707	180,386
Rental from investment property	300	-
	178,007	180,386

7. OTHER INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Local support groups	10,238	7,068
Insurance claim	30,491	1,650
Profit on sale of a fixed asset	15,358	2,850
Sundry income	8	464
	56,095	12,032

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8. EXPENDITURE

Year to 31 March 2026	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total 2026
	£	£	£
Inspiring people	798,231	207,638	1,005,869
Creating wildlife havens	1,219,633	221,079	1,440,712
Standing up for wildlife	2,509,718	452,509	2,962,227
Expenditure on charitable activities:	4,527,582	881,226	5,408,808
Expenditure on raising funds	594,470	133,481	727,951
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,122,052	1,014,707	6,136,759

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

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

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8. EXPENDITURE (continued)

	2026	2025
	£	£
ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DIRECTLY		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Personnel costs	2,554,548	2,332,083
Contractors, materials and equipment	1,719,413	2,287,121
Postage, IT and other office costs	60,225	70,851
Grants payable	8,000	40,900
Marketing, design and publications	88,242	78,600
Events	18,397	8,259
Depreciation	70,430	51,809
Other costs	8,327	6,259
	4,527,582	4,875,882
Expenditure on raising funds		
Trading costs	2,757	8,312
Membership scheme costs	399,664	357,999
Lottery costs	10,947	9,549
Fundraising costs	181,102	161,247
	594,470	537,107
Total cost of activities undertaken directly	5,122,052	5,412,989
MEMBERSHIP SCHEME COSTS		
Personnel costs	235,206	215,006
Membership magazines and other materials	112,246	100,016
Postage, IT and other office costs	20,852	14,018
Depreciation	7,591	7,591
Other costs	23,769	21,368
	399,664	357,999
SUPPORT COSTS		
Governance costs		
Personnel costs	54,566	52,969
Trustees' expenses	270	161
Professional indemnity insurance	3,717	3,610
Auditor's remuneration	32,320	22,060
Other governance costs	2,455	778
	93,328	79,578
Other support costs		
Personnel costs	526,008	457,434
Property expenses	90,766	90,931
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts levy	39,120	35,753
Postage, IT and other office costs	114,364	153,728
Insurance	53,190	50,350
Depreciation	58,596	57,785
Other costs	39,335	48,566
	1,014,707	974,125

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9. NUMBERS AND EMOLUMENTS OF STAFF

Staff costs are broken down as follows:	2026	2025
	£	£
Salaries	2,745,863	2,527,176
Employer's National Insurance	329,441	233,187
Employer's Pension	260,983	230,897
	3,336,287	2,991,260

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

	2026		2025	
	Total number	Full-time equivalent	Total number	Full-time equivalent
Charitable activities:				
Inspiring people	16	14	17	15
Creating wildlife havens	17	14	16	13
Standing up for wildlife	34	29	30	26
Raising funds	10	9	11	9
Support	15	13	14	12
	92	79	82	68

One member of staff received emoluments between £70,000 and £80,000 (2024/25: one). The total remuneration of the Chief Executive and three Directors in the period was £238,892 (2024/25: £220,564).

Two staff settlements were paid for the total amount of £55,967.

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION, EXPENSES AND DONATIONS

The total remuneration of the Trustees in the period totalled £nil (2024/25: £nil). Travel and subsistence expenses paid to one Trustee totalled £270 (2024/25: £161).

Donations received from Trustees £nil (2024/25: £3,020).

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 2026, the Trust received income from Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust totalling £34,587 (2024/25: £14,789) and paid £nil to Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (2024/25: £nil).

Fiona Southern is a Director of Carrock Landscapes Limited. During the year ended 31 March 2026, the Trust was invoiced and paid £2,010 to Carrock Landscapes Limited (2024/25: £2,500).

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.

All Trustees are members. Trustees do not receive a discount on membership.

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12. FIXED ASSETS

Group and Trust

	Tangible assets				Intangible assets
	Property	Equipment	Vehicles	Total	Software
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2025	1,497,027	634,467	200,878	2,332,372	33,522
Additions	-	95,695	30,135	125,830	-
Disposals	-	(55,296)	-	(55,296)	-
At 31 March 2026	1,497,027	674,866	231,013	2,402,906	33,522
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2025	226,428	460,596	102,673	789,697	33,522
Charge for the year	25,589	69,995	45,674	141,258	-
Depreciation on disposals	-	(55,296)	-	(55,296)	-
At 31 March 2026	252,017	475,295	148,347	875,659	33,522
Net book value					
At 31 March 2026	1,245,010	199,571	82,666	1,527,247	-
At 31 March 2025	1,270,599	173,871	98,205	1,542,675	-

The net book value at 31 March 2026 represents fixed assets used for:

	Tangible assets			
	Property	Equipment	Vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities				
Inspiring people	-	-	-	-
Creating wildlife havens	27,085	89,379	31,665	148,129
Standing up for wildlife	-	39,586	2,681	42,267
	27,085	128,965	34,346	190,396
Generating funds				
Fundraising	-	12,950	5,236	18,186
Membership	-	-	13,917	13,917
	-	12,950	19,153	32,103
Headquarters	1,217,925	57,656	29,167	1,304,748
	1,245,010	199,571	82,666	1,527,247

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13. HERITAGE ASSETS

Group and Trust

	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2025	10,578,498
Additions	230,829
Disposals	(7,483)
At 31 March 2026	10,801,844
Net book value	
At 31 March 2026	10,801,844
At 31 March 2025	10,578,498

A gift of land at Barkbooth Nature Reserve that was previously leased and managed by the Trust has been recorded at the fair value of £227,400.

14. FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ASSET TRANSACTIONS

Group and Trust

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Additions:					
Purchases	3,429	6,421,074	55,043	166,346	88,140
Donations	227,400	-	-	-	252,010
Disposals	(7,483)	-	-	-	-
Total	223,346	6,421,074	55,043	166,346	340,150

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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 six of the Trust's nature reserves are scheduled as Sites of Special Scientific Interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Seventeen 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 Crags, 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.

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16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Analysis of investments at 31 March 2026 by fund:

Group	Investment Property	Subsidiary companies	Investment Portfolio	Total
	£	£	£	£
Market value at 1 April 2025	510,000	-	773,912	1,283,912
Net investment gains/(losses)	-	-	(63,345)	(63,345)
Market value at 31 March 2026	510,000	-	710,567	1,220,567
Cost at 31 March 2026	-	-	671,897	671,897

Trust	Investment Property	Subsidiary companies	Investment Portfolio	Total
	£	£	£	£
Market value at 1 April 2025	510,000	100	773,912	1,284,012
Net investment gains/(losses)		-	(63,345)	(63,345)
Market value at 31 March 2026	510,000	100	710,567	1,220,667
Cost at 31 March 2026	-	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 has 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. The property was on the market for sale at 31 March 2026.

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 £17,005 .

Analysis of investment portfolio at 31 March 2026 by category of holding:

	Group	Trust	Group	Trust
	2026		2025	
	£	£	£	£
Unit trusts	710,567	710,567	773,912	773,912
Total listed investments	710,567	710,567	773,912	773,912
Unlisted investments	-	100	-	100
	710,567	710,667	773,912	774,012

The market values of the Trust's investments at 31 March 2026 were as follows:	£	% of total holding
COIF Ethical Investment Fund - Income Units	513,950	72.3
COIF Investment Fund - Accumulation Units	196,617	27.7
	710,567	100.0

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17. DEBTORS

	Group 2026 £	Trust 2026 £	Group 2025 £	Trust 2025 £
Trade debtors	231,360	231,360	94,787	94,787
Grants receivable	818,559	818,559	1,505,806	1,505,806
Prepayments and accrued income	494,448	494,448	533,346	533,346
Other debtors	49,994	49,994	16,563	16,563
	1,594,361	1,594,361	2,150,502	2,150,502

No provision for bad debts was deemed necessary at 31 March 2026.

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Group 2026 £	Trust 2026 £	Group 2025 £	Trust 2025 £
Trade creditors	130,646	130,646	280,621	280,621
Taxation and social security	26,290	26,290	7,755	7,755
Other creditors	25,967	26,067	31,050	31,150
Accruals and deferred income	618,523	618,523	914,535	914,535
	801,426	801,526	1,233,961	1,234,061

	At 1 April 2025	Released in in the Year	Received in the Year	At 31 March 2026
Deferred income included above (Group and Trust)	775,453	(775,453)	442,177	442,177

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19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	Group 2026 £	Trust 2026 £	Group 2025 £	Trust 2025 £
Financial assets at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities:				
Investments	710,567	710,667	773,912	774,012
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost:				
Investments (term deposits)	3,638,343	3,638,343	3,936,707	3,936,707
Cash at bank and in hand	985,884	985,884	689,097	689,097
Trade debtors	231,360	231,360	94,787	94,787
Other receivables	868,553	868,553	1,522,369	1,522,369
	5,724,140	5,724,140	6,242,960	6,242,960
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:				
Trade creditors	130,646	130,646	280,621	280,621
Other creditors	52,257	52,357	38,805	38,905
	182,903	183,003	319,426	319,526

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

20. 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	2026 £	2025 £
Debtors	100	100
Total current assets	100	100
Net Assets	100	100
Capital and Reserves	100	100

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21. 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 2025	Designated	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated for:					
Buildings, Vehicles & Equipment	18,402		(5,000)	-	13,402
Creating Wildlife Havens	638,196	36,052	(175,689)	92,200	590,759
Standing up for Wildlife	767,536	99,417	(286,242)	(92,200)	488,511
	1,424,134	135,469	(466,931)	-	1,092,672

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.

22. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 April 2025					At 31 March 2026	
Fund name	Current assets	Fixed assets	Income	Expenditure	Transfers to/from Fixed Assets	Current assets	Fixed assets
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Inspiring people & raising awareness	156,877	-	275,948	(239,586)	-	193,239	-
Creating wildlife havens	2,584,338	10,309,215	1,388,380	(964,130)	323,731	3,008,588	10,632,946
Standing up for wildlife	1,304,716	88,217	1,443,342	(1,694,374)	(50,074)	1,053,684	38,143
Living Seas	143,409	20,162	349,675	(218,089)	(10,998)	274,995	9,164
Other Funds	9,742	109,345	33,065	(19,021)	(18,896)	23,786	90,449
Restricted funds total	4,199,082	10,526,939	3,490,410	(3,135,200)	243,763	4,554,292	10,770,702

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 31 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.

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23. PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	At 1 April 2025	Investment Income	Gain/(Loss) on reval'n	Transfers to General funds	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Mary Miles: any sums over £5,000 for general Trust use	5,000	195	-	(195)	5,000
Kirby Fund: income for general Trust use	69,888	2,130	(6,366)	(2,130)	63,522
	74,888	2,325	(6,366)	(2,325)	68,522

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

24. TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

Transfers have been made from unrestricted funds to designated funds to safeguard funds for specific purposes identified by the Trustees. In 2025/26, the Trustees transferred £135,469 from unrestricted funds to designated funds for future expenditure and transferred £5,000 from designated funds to unrestricted funds.

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

25. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUNDS

At 31 March 2026 (Group)

	Unrestricted funds	Designated Funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	1,558,389	-	10,770,702	-	12,329,091
Fixed Asset Investments	510,000	647,045	-	63,522	1,220,567
Current Assets	1,217,379	445,627	4,554,292	5,000	6,222,298
Current Liabilities	(801,426)	-	-	-	(801,426)
	2,484,342	1,092,672	15,324,994	68,522	18,970,530

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	1,858,209	720,110	4,199,082	5,000	6,782,401
Current Liabilities	(1,233,961)	-	-	-	(1,233,961)
	2,728,482	1,424,134	14,726,021	74,888	18,953,525

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.

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26. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

None.

27. LOCAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Trust has seven 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 2025/26 have prepared accounts to 31 March 2026. 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 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2026 £
Local support groups	4,382	7,063	7,693	3,752
Special interest groups	21,570	631	1,383	20,818
	25,952	7,694	9,076	24,570

28. 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.

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29. 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	2026	2025
	£	£
Transfers in from other Environmental Bodies	568,408	400,428
Grants distributed	(104,684)	(407,670)
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	463,724	(7,242)

Balance Sheet	2026	2025
	£	£
Bank balances	474,439	-
Debtors	-	10,715
Current assets	474,439	10,715
Net assets	474,439	10,715
Represented by:		
Accumulated revenue surplus brought forward	10,715	17,957
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	463,724	(7,242)
Accumulated revenue surplus carried forward	474,439	10,715

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

	Suez Communities Fund	BIFFA Award	CWMET	Total
	£	£	£	£
Income received from other environmental bodies	37,000	474,439	56,969	568,408
Income available from previous years	-	-	10,715	10,715
Total income available	37,000	474,439	67,684	579,123
Expenditure on projects by Cumbria Wildlife Trust	(37,000)	-	(67,684)	(104,684)
Funds held at 31 March 2026	-	474,439	-	474,439

Projects funded by landfill operators during the Year

Funder/Project	Entrust No.	Expended	Allocated
		£	£
CWMET: Meadow Restoration and Seed Bank	093225.092	10,715	-
CWMET: Cold Springs Access to Eden	093225.094	56,969	-
Suez Communities Fund: Staveley Woodlands	341010.1407	37,000	-
BIFFA Award: Skiddaw Forest	093225.096	-	474,439
		104,684	474,439

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30. NATURE RESERVES AT 31 MARCH 2026

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. 2,509 hectares are owned by the Trust whilst 2,046 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	G/P	1975/2004/07/08/09	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	15.6	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	1998/2000/17/23/24	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	1963/1998/2000/24	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	1979/1997/2009	18.1	NY338543	Woodland
Park Wood	L		1998	14.7	SD567781	Woodland/Grassland
Rockliffe 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	1978/1991/2016	49.3	NY703054	Woodland/Grassland
South Walney	L		1963	487.0	SD215620	Shingle
Staveley Woodlands	O/L	P/G	1969/95/2000/18	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

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31. 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. Appreciation goes 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
Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape
Biffa Award
Buglife
Cumberland Council
Cumbria Community Foundation
Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust
DEFRA
Dignity in Dementia
Dutchy of Lancaster
Ecological Restoration Fund
Eden Rivers Trust
Environment Agency
Ernest Cook Trust
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Forestry Commission
Francis Scot Trust
Garfield Western Foundation
Grange & District Natural History Society
GrantScape
Holcim Wildlife Enchancement Fund
International Union for Conservation of Nature UK
Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Lake District National Park Authority
Landfill Communities Fund
Lonsdale Estates
Lowther Estate Trust
National Gas Community Fund
National Lottey Community Fund
National Lottery Heritage Fund
National Trust
Natural England
North Pennines National Landscape
Northumberland County Council
Northumberland National Park Authority
Peak District National Park Authority
Plantlife International
Penrith Town Council
RSWT
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Rural Payments Agency
Suez Communities Fund
The Crown Estate
The HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
The Swire Charitable Trust
The Rivers Trust
The Victoria Wood Foundation
The Woodland Trust
United Utilities
University of Leeds
West Cumbria Rivers Trust
Westmorland & Furness Council
Wyre Borough Council
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, nature reserves and special appeals.

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:

William Balmer	Stella Chance	Stephen Preston	Joan Stanton
Patricia Boorman	Diana Hall	John Sears	Richard Thomson
David Booth	Raymond Neesham	Andrew Smith	Bill Willink

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