



**Sheffield &  
Rotherham**

# Annual Review **2018 - 19**



Photo: Comma butterfly  
feeding on Verbena  
by Nick Upton/2020VISION

For nature, for everyone

# From our CEO

2018-19 has been another exciting year for the Trust as we work towards our vision of a Living Landscape – an amazing green landscape for the wildlife and people of Sheffield and Rotherham, which is understood, enjoyed and cared for by local people and organisations.



The Data for Nature and Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership, our National Lottery Heritage funded projects, have made huge strides this year. Data for Nature recruited a team of dedicated volunteers and

implemented a new adaptive approach to monitoring, working with colleagues from across the nature reserves team, to set out long term visions for each reserve. The Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership has launched a programme of activity with over twenty separate themes across the landscape to the north-west of Sheffield.

The 'Our Moors' campaign was further developed including raising and submitting to Michael Gove MP a petition to ban 'stink pits' with over 4,000 signatures. Sadly the illegal persecution of birds of prey continues and so the campaign to stop the illegal killing of wildlife, especially our local birds of prey continues to be high up on our agenda.

We connected over 8,600 people to nature through our community projects; Outdoor Learning, Wild at Heart and Natural Neighbours, a number which seems to grow and grow every year.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to our Trustees and also a big thank you to all our partners, funders, members and volunteers – without your ongoing support none of this would have been possible.

**Liz Ballard,**  
CEO

Photography by Helena Dolby, Emily Canning, Amy Hattersley, Sharron Burton, Julie Riley, Jon Hawkins/Surrey Hills Photography, Gillian Day, Mark Hamblin/2020 VISION, Terry Whittaker/2020 VISION

# What we do

## Creating a Network for Nature

**16** Nature Reserves



**590** Hectares managed by the Trust

**82** days of essential maintenance carried out

**75%** of our biodiversity management plan met (we had a target of 70%)

**80** page report submitted to HS2 Ltd highlighting threats and opportunities for nature as HS2 develops

**20** project themes launched as part of the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund



### Key access objectives delivered

The bridleway at Moss Valley was greatly improved, channeling visitor traffic and helping prevent erosion of the precious wildflower habitat.

### Monitoring framework for nature reserves established as part of our National Lottery Heritage Funded 'Data 4 Nature' project

Monitoring volunteers worked alongside expert ecologists to establish baselines for all of the nature reserves. For example the extent of the harvest mouse population at Woodhouse Washlands was discovered.

## Inspiring people

**11%** increase in web sessions

**1,400** new Facebook followers

**2,000** people engaged in the Wild at Heart project

**Over 1,000** engaged in Natural Neighbours activities

**Over 425** people attended guided walks, workshops and Community Work Days

**4,600** children and young people participated in natural play and outdoor learning

**600** volunteers helped us deliver conservation



**“** Getting involved with Data for Nature' was one of the best decisions I made during my time at university. Volunteering for your local Wildlife Trust is a vital way of helping to protect wildlife in your local area!" **Libby, Data for Nature Volunteer**



### Engaged with people through our green prescribing events as part of our Wild at Heart project

A new contract to deliver weekly nature activity sessions in Clifton Park, was secured with Rotherham Social Prescribing.

*“I won’t remember coming here for very long - the photographs help me.”*

Cicely, Dementia patient and Wild at Heart participant describing her appreciation for the project

### Children and young people connected with nature through our outdoor learning service

The Eastwood Estate Park ‘Boys Club’, gave 8-13 year old Roma boys in Eastwood Village, Rotherham, the skills to become Young Rangers.



## Taking action for nature and wildlife

**Over 350** members lobbied their MP to raise the issue of the Environment Act

**17** consultations responded to

**£13,483.07** fundraised as part of our badger appeal 26% of a five year target

**6** active campaigns

*The Wind in the Willows*, the Wilder Future campaign video was viewed

**105,887** times

**150** supporters attended the Sheffield Hen Harrier Day

**Over 4,000** signatures on the petition to ban stink pits

**33** planning applications responded to, with 19 positive outcomes

**1** sold out birds of prey monitoring event

**“Please support a strong Environment Act in the UK! Wildlife supports our physical and mental health. We’re all connected - support our biodiversity.”** Anonymous postcard to MP calling for a strong Environmental Act and describing why it is important

Liz Ballard, CEO was invited to represent the Wildlife Trust on the National Wildlife Crime Unit Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group.

**Awareness raised and MPs, local Councillors & key decision-makers influenced about issues that impact on wildlife**

As part of the Wilder Future campaign over 350 members wrote to or met their MP to raise the issue of the Environment Act and the proposal that nature recovery networks should become statutory.

**Responded to consultations and lobbying on relevant local, regional and national strategies that have the potential to cause significant harm to the network for nature**

We responded to 17 consultations, ranging from a review of the badger cull, to proposals for a new Environmental watchdog.

Responded to local planning applications, especially those that have the potential to cause significant harm or opportunity to



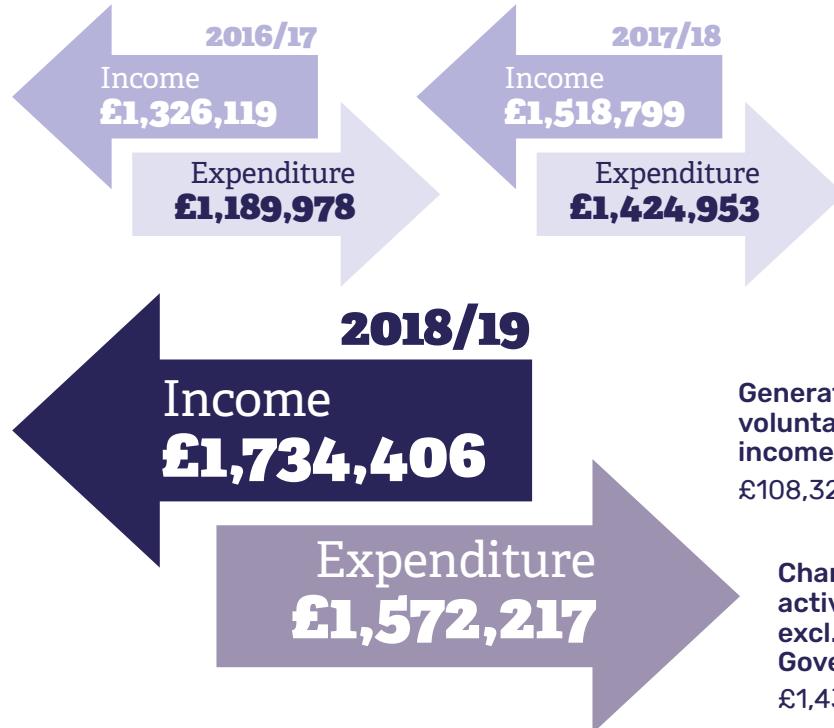
the network for nature

We responded to 33 planning applications with 19 positive outcomes. Successes included the addition of hedgehog highways in new build developments.

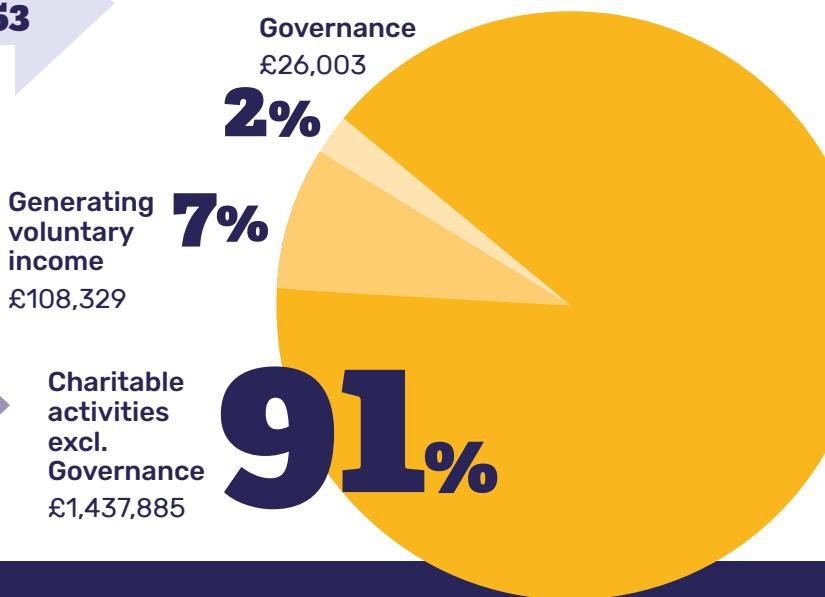
**Progressed our key campaigns**

The ‘Our Moors’ and ‘Birds of Prey’ campaigns were further developed. Key achievements include, raising and submitting to Michael Gove MP a petition to ban ‘stink pits’ and hosting two successful and well attended events; Sheffield Hen Harrier Day and a birds of prey monitoring evening.

# Financial summary



## How we spend our money



## Looking Ahead 2019-20 and beyond

In 2017-18, we undertook a 5 year Strategy Refresh to take us forward from 2018-2023. In 2018-19 the Trust – Board and staff – undertook a review of the external and internal pressures which impact on the organisation, considering the threats and opportunities for our work.

In the year ahead, some of our key areas of activity will be to:

- Increase biodiversity through natural flood risk management, woodland management, partnership working at Redmires & Rivelin and Local Wildlife sites improvements through the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership
- Be an active partner in RSPB-led Upland Skies Landscape Partnership development project, to raise awareness of our local birds of prey
- Positively contribute to wider, regional, landscape-scale conservation by working with partners on the 'Wild Peak' proposal and respond to consultations on HS2
- Launch the 'Nature Counts' online recording site, for members and the general public to submit sightings of

wildlife in and around Sheffield and Rotherham.  
[www.wildsheffield.co/sightings](http://www.wildsheffield.co/sightings)

- Continue to engage the community with nature through established projects such as Wild at Heart, Natural Neighbours and Outdoor Learning.
- Deliver a Partnership Sheffield Street Tree Strategy

## Thank you

Thank you to our Trustees, partners, funders, members and volunteers – without your ongoing support none of this would have been possible.



**Our Trustees:** C Pennell, Chair • M Ridler, Vice Chair • T Dodd, Treasurer  
K Craik • B Higgins • S Leckie • A Parker • A Perrins • A Holt • N Stewart • Daragh O'Reilly



Sheffield &  
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