



**Sheffield &  
Rotherham**  
Wildlife Trust



# Annual Report Summary 23-24

*For nature, for everyone*



# WELCOME!

Welcome to this Annual Report Summary showcasing the Trust's achievements in 2023/24. This Summary provides an update of our achievements in support of our three strategic aims as we work towards our overall ambition of making sure that **30% of land and water is great for nature by 2030**.

All of these achievements are very much down to all of you - our members, supporters, partners, funders, volunteers, staff and Trustees. Thank you for continuing to support our work to help nature recover - protecting and enhancing green spaces across Sheffield and Rotherham for both wildlife and communities.

In 2023/24, thanks to your support, Ughill Farm was saved and work is now underway to farm it in a more nature-friendly way. Our nature reserves are looked after by more volunteers than ever before and we are engaging with ever more diverse communities.

Thank you so much for helping us make such a positive difference to the green spaces, wildlife and people of Sheffield and Rotherham.

**Liz Ballard, CEO**



Thank you to all our volunteers - our achievements for wildlife simply would not be possible without you!

# 2023 -24

## 1

### Nature is in recovery and helping

**£1.2million+** was secured to purchase Ughill Farm outright in perpetuity. A nature-friendly farm plan is in action, and comprehensive baseline data has been gathered, including 180+ plant and 50+ bird species!

We have restored 10 hectares of habitat and maintained 160 hectares on our nature reserves, achieving over **80%** of our **biodiversity objectives**.

**Major river restoration work** was delivered at Treeton along almost 1km of the Rother, including a new **350m hedgerow** and creation of **1.5 hectares of woodland**.

Leaky dams and tree planting for **Natural Flood Management** in the Upper Loxley cover 1.28km.

**33.1 hectares of new woodland** has been planted over the year, with even more planned.

**Nature Counts** recording achieved **54,648** records by **219** individual users.

Monitoring revealed **19 ancient woodland** indicators at Greno Woods, **snipe, lapwing** and **curlew** at Hammond's Field and the first record of **bee orchid** at Carbrook Ravine.

**A 10-year Sheffield Lakeland Partnership legacy plan** has been launched.

Funding of **£116k** has been secured to commence **water vole recovery work**.

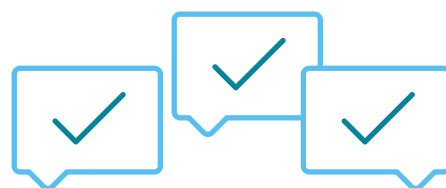


We **supported** and **trained** **52 new** volunteer rangers.

## Volunteers

# 19,000

More than **430 active volunteers** dedicated a total of **19,000 hours** on **ecological monitoring** and **conservation activities**.



Volunteers are **overwhelmingly positive** about their experience with the Trust. **99% reported** they feel **supported, valued** and treated with **respect**.



# HIGHLIGHTS



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## More people taking action

Signup to **Nature Recovery Sheffield** increased by 10% with **Nature Recovery Rotherham** pledges not far behind!

Use of the **Nature Recovery Community Toolkit** and the **Community Action Map** are increasing.

We collaborated with **Fir Vale Mosque**, the **Caribbean Cricket Club** and communities in **Page Hall** to improve their green spaces.

**3 schools** are improving their grounds for nature following our **school grounds assessments**.

We reached over **210** people through **green space projects** at Eastwood and Canklow in Rotherham and advised **15** groups through our **Nature Connection activities**.

**217** business employees took action for nature through **Wild Work Days**.

We stood up for wildlife by **engaging with local MPs and councillors** to discuss threats to nature, campaigns and calls to action.

"I've been to the parks around my house before but I've never been up in the mountains like this before... I was so excited to get to come to a nature reserve."

**13** year old participant enjoying a session at Greno Woods

"The Wild at Heart group has changed my life."  
Wild at Heart attendee

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## Everyone can experience and benefit from nature

We responded to **87** enquiries and achieved some **influence** over the development of the **Sheffield Local Plan**.

We drafted a new '**Nature Equity Map**' to identify inequity of access to quality natural greenspace.

Our **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer** spoke to over **1,250** individuals from **18 diverse groups**. **12** new volunteers have signed up and **40** people enjoyed their first ever visit to our nature reserves.

**138** health and community professionals have completed **Green Social Prescribing training**.

A report found for every £1 invested in the delivery of our green social prescribing activity, there was a **£1.19 of additional benefits** in terms of reduced costs to the NHS.

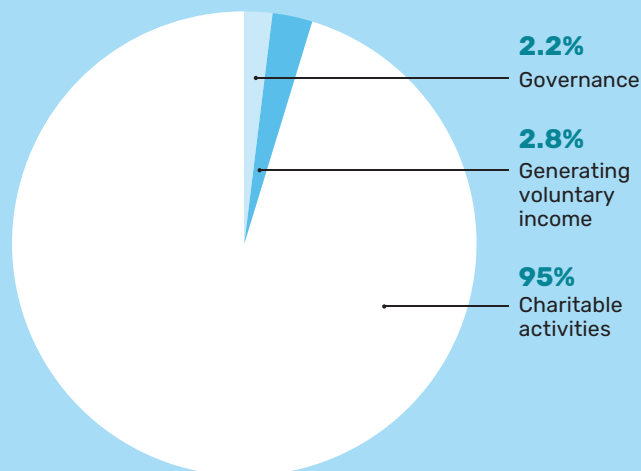
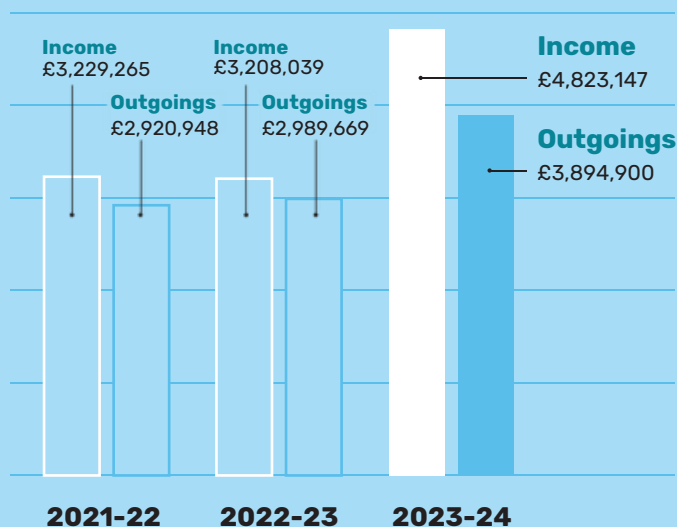
**Wild at Heart** engaged with nearly **1,400 people** with those attending regularly reporting improvements to their wellbeing.

We reached over **3,300 children and families** and **7 new schools** through our outdoor learning programmes and Wild Play activities.

We engaged with **35 teachers** at an Outdoor Learning conference in Sheffield and supported development of a new Schools Rewilding Rotherham Award involving nearly **30 schools** with Nature Recovery Rotherham.



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



How we spent our money in 2023-24



## Trustees

**Mark Ridler** (Chair) (to 28/9/23)  
**Ben Stone** (Chair) (from 28/9/23)  
 (Vice Chair) (to 28/9/23)  
**Helen Francis** (Vice Chair) (from 28/9/23)  
**Akram Ahmed** (Treasurer) (to 29/8/23)  
**Dominic Tydeman-White** (Treasurer) (from 28/9/23)  
**Sarah Blandy**  
**Dr Stephen Campbell**  
**Sarah Dew** (from 28/9/23)  
**James Hall**  
**Siobhan Laird**  
**Kris Mackay**  
**Dr Scott McKenzie**  
**Oscar Morton** (from 28/9/23)  
**Holly Schofield** (to 28/9/23)  
**Christopher Tomson**  
**Mary Wilton**



**Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust**

WildSheffield  
 wildsheffieldandrotherham  
 Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust  
 mail@wildsheffield.com

wildsheffield.com

