



Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside

The Lancashire Wildlife Trust

— ANNUAL REVIEW —
2018



www.lancswt.org.uk

A message from the chairman and chief executive

We continue to be a leading and influential voice for wildlife

This year the Trust has continued to develop and strengthen its impact, despite the increasingly challenging landscape in which we operate. We have seen our campaigning activities ramp up a gear with so many issues on the horizon, like Marine Conservation Zones consultation, post Brexit plans for our environment and the badger cull. Now is not the time to take our foot off the gas.

The Trust has found increasing compliance pressures including new fundraising regulations and the General Data Protection Regulations, alongside Entrust changes. These are things we are required to deliver without additional capacity, but nevertheless are a crucial piece of the puzzle when it comes to protecting your wildlife.

A highlight was the release of the Nature and Wellbeing study nationally, which put strong scientific evidence behind the benefits of spending time in nature to people's health and wellbeing.

This strengthens our work. This was supported by a visit from HRH Prince Harry.

On our reserves, we have been successful in securing a Stage 1 Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £90,900 for Lunt Meadows to develop projects looking at the wildlife and nationally important archaeological discoveries on the site. Our delivery of the £3.2 million Carbon Landscape HLF project on Greater Manchester's peatland continues and is an exciting prospect for the future of the county's lowland peat bogs. This included volunteers cultivating and planting sphagnum moss to regenerate a bog destroyed by peat extraction for horticulture.

The Fylde Sand Dunes project received an "Outstanding" award from the Royal Horticultural Society in the "It's Your Neighbourhood Award" category. Meanwhile, the People's Postcode Lottery has enabled us to expand our successful Manchester Forest Schools programme into Liverpool, enabling many more children to get close to nature.

Anne Selby speaks to Prince Harry at Brockholes by Paul Heyes

We continue to be a leading and influential voice for wildlife. We contributed to the Mayor, Andy Burnham's Greater Manchester Green Summit in March and will be active participants in the drive to make the conurbation a greener and more biodiverse place.

Our wildlife is still facing challenges. We are seeing worrying declines in insect species and other wildlife across our region and the UK.

Our reserves support key species, such as red squirrels, fritillaries and the large heath butterfly, and we have been actively managing them to sustain and strengthen populations. Our work with other partners at a national level is vital as we must influence management of the countryside at a landscape scale to ensure the decline in biodiversity is reversed.

We would like to thank members, volunteers and supporters for standing by us at a time when they are needed more than ever.

Our trustees

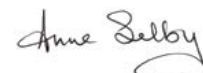
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We have also seen a growth in people wishing to support our work in the future by leaving the Trust a legacy. There are times when the challenges we face seem insurmountable, but with our excellent team, volunteers, members, Trustees and other supporters, we are confident we really can make a difference for future generations.

Thank you


Steve Garland,
Chairman


Anne Selby
Chief Executive

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper signs the Pledge for Nature watched by LWT CEO Anne Selby at Haskayne Cutting by Alan Wright

Standing up for wildlife

Making sure wildlife matters
after Brexit

Now more than ever, wildlife needs us as the pressure on our natural world increases. Our campaigning work includes lobbying MPs, influencing at a strategic level, raising public awareness and inspiring people to take action for their local wildlife. Our campaigning work really highlights the strength of The Wildlife Trusts movement, with strategic campaigning at a national level alongside our regional influences. Wildlife has been firmly on the agenda.

We lobbied hard for wildlife....

The snap election in June 2017 meant we needed to act quickly. We had a few weeks to ensure key environmental issues were not forgotten. With the threats of decreased protection for our wildlife post-Brexit, we wrote to all of our 47 MPs and met locally with many others to discuss aspects of future agri-environment, fisheries and environmental governance issues of concern to us. The publication of the UK Government's 25-year Plan for the Environment reassured us in its analysis, but lacked much detail on delivery and outcomes.

We continued to fight for better protection in our seas...

The North West Wildlife Trusts' Living Seas Project has continued to influence policy and practice through awareness campaigns, membership of key committees and liaison with the Marine Maritime Organisation. Lobbying for effective conservation enforcement on the already designated Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) has been ongoing. We must ensure that a coherent ecological network is delivered in the Irish Sea. Two marine community engagement officer posts have been established and sustained to date, supported by Esme Fairbairn Foundation.

Bolton West and Atherton MP, Chris Green said:
"Great to meet with Lancashire Wildlife Trust to find out more about their fantastic work in Bolton West."

Bury North MP James Frith:
"I have affinity with the work you are doing. I do have some allergies, so while nature may not be James Frith-friendly, James Frith is nature-friendly."

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper, on Brexit:
"I will ensure our front bench is aware of your wildlife concerns and any opportunity to include them in any amendments to future bills."

Hyndburn MP Graham Jones said:
"I support The Wildlife Trusts' vision where contact with wildlife is part of our everyday lives and local communities can enjoy the benefits of an improved natural environment."

We have taken action on planning consultations...

The Trust has provided detailed responses to several local plan consultations during the year and made comments on major development proposals, including one potentially damaging to key wildlife and wildlife habitat in the recently designated West Pennine Moors SSSI: consent was refused by the local planning authority. We also engaged in pre-consultations on the revised Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

We have Influenced at a strategic level...

The Trust played its part in the Greater Manchester Mayor's Green Summit in March which provided us with an opportunity to launch our My Wild City campaign, bringing our Living Landscape concept into Manchester. The Trust has continued to play a major role in two of the Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs). CEO, Anne Selby, is Chair of the Greater Manchester Natural Capital Group, an arm of the city region's Low Carbon Hub, setting the strategic direction for environmental/low carbon policy across Greater Manchester. As part of this work, the Trust hosted a visit by Thérèse Coffey MP, Undersecretary of State for the Environment, to Little Woodden Moss, where the Minister viewed our ongoing restoration work on this degraded carbon store.

765
volunteers
trained

— Our wild places —

Creating homes for our creatures



Our nature reserve portfolio has 38 sites covering over 1,300 hectares. The Trust also manages and advises on the wildlife management of a number of other sites – safeguarding, enhancing and influencing others to benefit wildlife.

Mere Sands Wood

Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve has benefitted from a new Field Studies Centre, which arrived on the back of three trucks, and is already proving a valuable asset. Plans are being developed for stage two with a café and event space, volunteers' facilities and an enlarged shop. This will help generate income to carry out the vital conservation work on this magnificent reserve.

Dogs on reserves

We are looking at positive and innovative ideas and partnerships to deal with increased bad behaviour by dogs and their owners on nature reserves. Much of the work is concentrated on Foxhill Bank where dog faeces has become so severe that we have had to suspend school visits.

Warton Crag

We have created butterfly "rides" at Warton Crag by removing trees with the aim of keeping open habitat corridors to benefit a variety of species. In particular, nationally rare, fritillaries are using the rides.

Managing woodlands on the moss

Tree felling and wetland management works at Heysham Moss, Astley Moss and Red Moss have seen the water table rise to the benefit of many mossland species. Plans are in the pipeline for more rewetting once funding is in place.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Mere Sands Wood appeal - the Field Studies Building is a wonderful legacy reflecting your kindness.



The Field Studies Centre is delivered to Mere Sands Wood

Heysham Moss

A damaging fire in 2017 on Heysham Moss, with the potential loss of rare species and the recently reintroduced large heath butterfly, highlighted the vulnerability of many of our sites to arson. Thankfully, flying large heath adults were seen soon after the fire and we are hopeful that they have survived in sufficient numbers.

Lunt Meadows

Work has continued on the development of Lunt Meadows in Sefton, where a National Lottery-funded project came to a close. This work involved investing in a range of visitor-related improvements and in the Mesolithic archaeology (hunter-gatherer houses) found on the site. The National Lottery has agreed to funding further development works in 2018, developing the infrastructure at this exciting site.

Contracts Team

The contracts team has created a reed bed to prevent flooding at Bickershaw, where it has caused problems in the past. The team also designed and then built a new pond at Euxton Millennium Green for the parish council. They also constructed a new path to support our Forest School work at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.



Wall butterfly at Warton Crag by Alan Wright

— Our wild places —

Inspiration, pride and lots of hard work

21
placements
for career
progression



It's been full steam ahead for the Carbon Landscape team.

Great Manchester Wetlands Partnership

As the lead partner, it is of no surprise that a major success is the ability to bring in more income for our landscape restoration work. Funds have been secured from Wigan Council's Community Investment Fund for work at Bickershaw, Environment Agency for work that helps reduce flood risk and improve water quality, Fenscape improvements with funding from Enover Community Trust, and mossland restoration work through DEFRA's Peat Fund. The partnership is a great forum to share ideas with our fellow conservation organisations.

Plan Bee

The Plan Bee project has completed work in the Skelmersdale area with focussed pollinator work on key habitats. The South Pennines Grassland Project has met its target of restoring and creating 250 hectares of species rich grassland and developed good working relationships with local farmers. As many farmers lack the equipment needed to cut meadows, funding has been secured to purchase equipment and to establish a "tools ring" where farmers can rent out the equipment at a reasonable price.

The Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement Area (NIA).

The Carbon Landscape, a Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Scheme has had a hugely successful first year with an inspirational launch at the impressive Astley Mining Museum. There have been walks, talks and family events and a pro-active volunteer recruitment.

Our magical mosslands

Our Chat Moss Vision project is in its last year with the completion of the Heritage Lottery Fund activity and ongoing with funds from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. The friends-of group and volunteers continue to grow in skills and confidence. The need for further continuation of the project and securing funds for capital restoration works are crucial now. We have an excellent corporate sponsor, Ecospeed, who take pride in supporting this local project that helps to store carbon, and we are looking at how we can increase this model to other corporate sponsors.



Wigan Flashes is great for great crested grebe-spotting



Swallow by Mark Hamblin 2020 Vision

Ten reserves faced threats from adjacent planning developments and the potential for increased stress on the wildlife. Staff have engaged in discussions with planners and developers to oppose/mitigate against damage.

The Red Squirrel Project in Sefton and West Lancashire. This project has helped to restore populations to 95% of pre-squirrel pox numbers.



Creating sand dunes on the Fylde Coast

Volunteers have given their time equating to the equivalent of 38 members of staff (64,708 hours).

After decades of campaigning, by the Trust and many others, the West Pennine Moors was finally designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and this was confirmed by Natural England in August 2017.



Red squirrel by Ellen Sherlock

The Ribble Estuary and the Wyre/Lune Estuary in Lancashire are being considered by Government as Marine Conservation Zones, which would provide much-needed protection for wildlife.



Prince Harry with Myplace by Paul Heyes

The work of the MyPlace project has received national praise and led to the visit by His Royal Highness Prince Harry to Brockholes to meet participants.



Getting stuck in at Myplace.

The launch of our My Wild City campaign saw the Trust take a leading role at the Mayoral Green Summit in Manchester, and embed wildlife and biodiversity into the high-level discussions on the day.



Cuttlefish by Paul Naylor

More than 3,000 people in Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside took part in 30 Days Wild more than any other region of the country.

Discovering nature by Paul Harris 2020 Vision



Tony Juniper is interviewed by the Ribble



We hosted BBC Countryfile, BBC Radio 4 and continued our regular appearances in Lancashire Life, Lancashire and North West Magazine and the Manchester Evening News.

395
events

A legacy for wildlife

Making sure generations to come
will see the benefits

If you
would like to
leave a legacy to
help Lancashire's
wildlife go to
[www.lancswt.org.uk/
leave-legacy](http://www.lancswt.org.uk/leave-legacy)

We would not be able to continue our work without the support of our members and volunteers, who are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Trust. When we receive a legacy it really is the most wonderful gift; it means we are able to spend the money where wildlife needs it most without restrictions from funders.

Alan's story

A legacy left by Alan Whitwell has made a huge difference for wildlife across Merseyside and the investment it has allowed us to make, will last for many years to come.

First of all, Alan's gift will enhance the development of Lunt Meadows, famous for short eared owls and an evolving wetland reserve. As we know that Alan had a lifelong love of birds and he wished for his legacy to be invested in Merseyside we really hope that he would be thrilled to see how Lunt Meadows is becoming a haven for wildfowl and, of course, short-eared owls.

The area used to be agricultural before being set aside for flood defence. Now it is attracting many visitors, both with wings and without. As the site is managed to cater for wildlife and allow local people to enjoy being close to nature, Alan's gift has meant that we have been able to invest in improving access around the site and we've also recently attracted National Lottery support to develop the site further.



Swan and cygnets at Seaforth

But Lunt Meadows is not the only part of Merseyside to benefit from the gift Alan left us, his legacy means that we have been able to take on a new Reserves Officer, Mike Cunningham, who is involved with conservation on another popular site, Freshfield Dune Heath, where he is helping to tackle the invasion of scrub on our rare lowland meadow habitat. He is also heavily involved with our grazing project and has just completed his first lambing season. Our flock of cattle, goats and sheep provide excellent natural grazing for many of our reserves, removing vegetation that inhibits the development of important wildflower meadows and help prevent areas that ground nesting birds like to populate becoming too overgrown.

Finally, we're investing in staff support at Seaforth Nature reserve where there have been recent sightings of great crested grebes, golden eye, common and sandwich terns, dunlin, blacktailed godwits, sedge and reed warblers as well as swallows and house martins. More delicate winged visitors include speckled wood, large and green-veined white, peacock and small tortoiseshell butterflies.

We really hope that Alan's family are able to take a little comfort in the breadth and coverage of this enormously generous legacy and we'd like them to know that we have done our very best to really stretch out the gift and make the very most of every penny kindly bequeathed to us for wildlife.



Common tern rests at Seaforth by Alan Wright



Challenging times

Adapting to a changing financial environment

The Trust continued to operate in a challenging economic environment as we see external funding, particularly in the public sector, continuing to face real cuts. Over the past few years the Trust has adapted and will continue to adapt to this environment.

The Trust's membership income rose by 6.9% to £91k during the year owing to the continued work by our dynamic development department. Grant income for the Trust also increased by 60% mainly as a result of funding support for targeted projects. The operational financial performance of Brockholes improved in the year following a cost restructure.

This year we have made progress in securing new sources of income and will continue to diversify our funding sources, whilst exploring new ways of generating sustainable sources of income. This type of unrestricted income allows us to invest our resources in areas where there is the greatest conservation need.

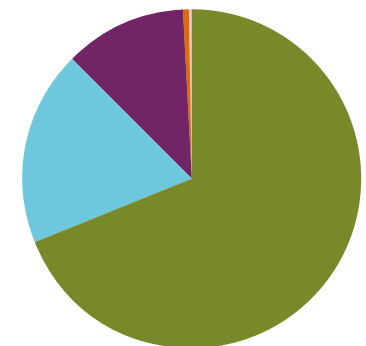
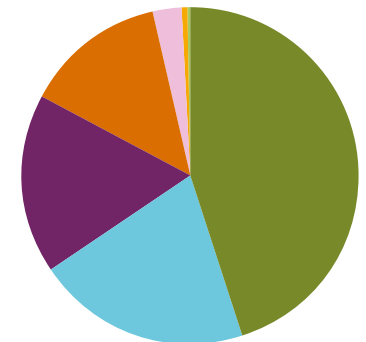
Our cash balance increased by £2k in the year reflecting strong cash-flow management and budget control. Unrestricted reserves increased in the year strengthening our financial resilience enabling us to expand and enhance our Nature Reserves in the future.

Principal themes from our consolidated statutory accounts are summarised here. These incorporate the results of the Trust and its subsidiary Brockholes Enterprises Limited ("Brockholes").

A full set of accounts will be available after the AGM on request or can be accessed through the Charity Commission web site or at www.lancswt.org.uk

	2018	2017
Revenues:	£'000	£'000
Grants	2,372	1,481
Trading Activities	1,085	977
Membership	911	852
Contract	709	698
Donations	146	120
Legacies	27	133
Other	11	47
Total	5,621	4,308

	2018	2017
Expenditure:	£'000	£'000
Charitable Activities	3,699	3,109
Brockholes	985	1,040
Fund Raising	625	602
Governance	36	35
Other	5	10
Total	5,350	4,796



274
teachers
trained

Wild and inspired

If no one cares for nature,
we cannot protect its future

Over the past year, our People and Wildlife team achieving some excellent work that will inspire people about the natural world through all of education, community activities and volunteering activity.



Myplace volunteers sell vegetables at Blackburn Market

Community engagement

Our two smaller Heritage Lottery-funded community engagement projects, Lunt Meadows and the Kingfisher Trail, have had fantastic results proving that our methods for community engagement are effective at involving a wide audience. The Kingfisher Trail was held up by the Heritage Lottery Fund's North West Office as an example of best practice.

For our work with children, young people and families we have engaged a significant number of people through chargeable activities such as Nature Tots, Wild Families, Wildside, Wildparties and outreach work. Forest Schools' training, activities and development of facilities, grows with more interest. We successfully secured further continuation funding from Peoples Postcode Lottery through a partnership that has been developed at RSWT, and we were awarded an additional £50,000 to replicate our model in Liverpool.

Inspiring people to take action

The Biodiverse Society, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, came to an end after it was hugely successful at raising awareness of wildlife recording and the value of our Local Wildlife Sites, training up more volunteers to continue wildlife recording into the future and building a stronger network of local groups to enable this to happen.

The Hive project at Moss Bank Park, Bolton, continues to be a success despite a reduction in grant funding and a changing model that relies more on chargeable income. In Wigan we have engaged members of the public through a variety of events, thanks to funding from the service level agreement that we have with Wigan Council, and through a grant secured from their Community Investment Fund. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council have also continued their service level agreement for our partnership that supports the co-ordination of their community clean-up strategy. Lancashire Environmental Fund applications have enabled us to focus on how we can engage volunteers in important species and habitat work across sites in Lancashire.

A total of 1,067 volunteers have given their invaluable time for free and this has equated to the equivalent of 38 full-time members of staff (64,708 hours).

40
schools
supported to
improve their
grounds



Cakes galore at Heysham Open Day

A giant kingfisher at Phillips Park, start of the Kingfisher Trail by Alan Wright

Wild and inspired

Campaigning for healthier people and environment

21,265
children
engaged (both
in & out of
school)



Youngsters get close to nature

811
young people
engaged
(both in school
and out of
school):

Health and Wellbeing

Our My Place project, in partnership with Lancashire Care Foundation Trust, has successfully secured an additional £677,000 from the European Social Fund. This money will support those people furthest away from employment through the project as a means to building confidence and helping them to become more employable. This has seen an increase in staff and hub locations and we are now gradually building up the numbers participating.

Our Living Seas

Marine awareness work through the Living Seas initiative has been a growth area this year with projects covering most coastal areas with three officers organising public events, school and community work. Our Irish Sea project has been running for two years with funding from Esme Fairbairn Foundation and achieving excellent results, doubling the numbers achieved in its first year. With the huge promotion about plastic pollution it is clear we need to make the most of this interest and turn attendance into active involvement in our campaigns.



Young people are getting more involved in recording

Lancashire Dunes

The Lancashire Dunes Project has been restructured with Fylde Borough Council taking over the practical delivery aspects of the project in line with its new Coast And Countryside Ranger system. The Trust now coordinates the public awareness elements of the project and has expanded this work to cover marine wildlife awareness. The Connecting to Nature Project at Heysham Nature Reserve had over 1,000 people participating during the year in a wide range of family and specialist events in partnership with EDF Energy.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

GOLD

Qualitel
United Utilities
B and D Print
Eagle & Child
Ramsbottom
Eco-Speed

SILVER

Beaverbrooks
Fort Vale
Hanson
M J Wilkinson
RBS
Tarmac

BRONZE

Aggregate Industries
Derek Fox & Sons
Dugdale Nutrition
Manchester Airport
Responsible Mailing
South Ribble Borough

Council
Weinberger
ENI Liverpool
Neales Waste
Sykes Holiday Cottages

Special thank you to organisations contributing in different ways to our work:

BEAR Nibbles, Lucozade Ribena Suntry, Brewin Dolphin, RBS Service Optimisation Team, Siemens, Costain, Price Waterhouse Cooper, Tetley (Tata Global Beverages), Eric Wright Construction, John Lewis, Leyland Trucks, Nurture Lakeland, Opticron, Ribby Hall Village, Team JMC, Vine House Farm.

Thank you to all our funders:

Awards For All, Arnsdale and Silverdale grants fund, BAE Systems, Baxenden Community Forum, Big Lottery Fund, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Blackpool Council, Bolton Council, Bolton, British Science Association, Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund (Grantscape), CVS, Chester Zoo, Chorley Borough Council, Cory Environmental Trust in Britain, DEFRA, Department of Health, EDF Energy, Environment Agency, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, EU LIFE, ESF, First Transpennine Express, Forestry Commission Green Grants, Fylde Borough Council, Green Vale Homes, Heritage Lottery Fund, HSBC, Hyndburn Borough Council, Irlam Rotary Club, Knowsley Borough Council, Lancashire County Council - Local Initiatives Fund, Lancashire County Council - Central Gateway Grants Scheme, Lancashire Environmental Fund, Natural England, Pendle Borough Council, People's Postcode Lottery, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Scout Moor Habitat Enhancement Fund, Sea-changers, St Helens Borough Council, Tesco small grants, United Utilities, Veolia Environmental Trust, Viridor Credits, West Lancashire Borough Council, White Moss Community Fund, Whitworth Town Council, Wigan Council, Windfall Fund, WREN.



Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside

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The Lancashire Wildlife Trust is a Registered Charity (No. 229325) and a Registered Company. (No.731548) dedicated to the protection and promotion of wildlife in Lancashire, seven boroughs of Greater Manchester and four of Merseyside, all lying North of the River Mersey

