



**Suffolk**  
Wildlife Trust



# A celebration of the year

April 2021 to March 2022

For Wildlife • For Suffolk • For Everyone





# Thank you!

**Suffolk Wildlife Trust is an inspiring and impactful charity with a compelling vision for our county to be wilder.**

This year, as your Trust and society continued to adapt to the challenges of coronavirus, nature has nurtured us all. Looking to the future, your Board of Trustees is determined that Suffolk Wildlife Trust will be a strong, confident and influential voice for the county's wildlife and wild places. Nature is the very foundation on which our county's health, wellbeing and economic prosperity sits – and yet is all too easily cast aside.

Members, volunteers and supporters in every community of Suffolk give the Trust our mandate to speak up for nature. I am proud of the leadership your Trust is bringing to our county with our vision for a wilder Suffolk. We want to bring nature back, so wildlife in our county is thriving and abundant once again – and we need everyone to play their part.

The commitment of you as members makes it possible for us to think bigger and be ambitious for our county. Together we can inspire more people to get involved and harness the collective impact of individual and community actions for wildlife. Thank you!

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is one of the 46 charities that make up the UK Wildlife Trusts. As we seek to do more for wildlife, the power of this collaboration has never been greater, combining our county focus and collective UK voice. 100% Suffolk, with a bigger, more impactful voice.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, reading 'James Alexander'.

James Alexander, Chair

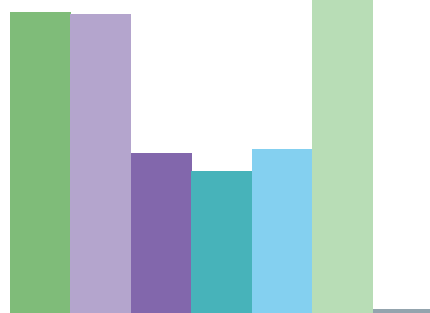




# Financial summary

Financial summary for the year to March 2022. Thank you to all our members and supporters for your commitment to the Trust.

## INCOME



## Incoming resources

£000s

● Members' subscriptions & donations	1612
● Fundraising & grants	1599
● SWT Trading company income	865
● Learning & centres*	769
● Legacies	886
● Gift of land in kind	1900
● Investment income	22
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>7653</b>

Unrealised gain on investments 59

**Net incoming resources 3568**

Fund balances brought forward 24727

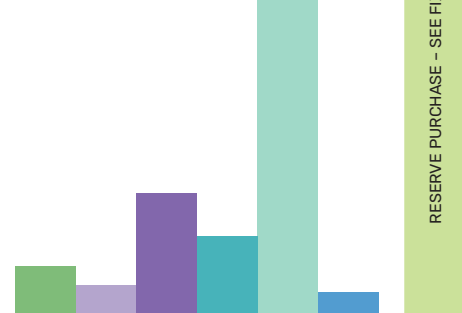
**Fund balances carried forward 28295**

\*Includes sale of old Carlton centre

\*\*Expenditure excludes funds spent on land and centres, which is shown in fixed assets

\*\*\* Includes designated, unrestricted and restricted funds

## EXPENDITURE



## Resources expended

£000s

● Membership	269
● Fundraising & grants	164
● SWT Trading company costs	650
● Learning activities	425
● Nature reserves & conservation	2504
● Support, management & admin	132
<b>Total resources expended**</b>	<b>4144</b>

## Analysis of group net assets

### Fixed assets

Nature reserves (1 April 2021)	13067
● Nature reserves acquired this year	2661
Tangible assets incl visitor centres	3756
<b>Net current assets***</b>	<b>8811</b>

**28295**

The timing of grant and legacy income is often before expenditure, and therefore not always in the same financial year. For larger projects, expenditure can span multiple years. Legacy gifts are set aside for significant projects and land purchase.



## Trustees' statement

The statements above use figures extracted from the audited annual accounts. For a full understanding of the financial affairs of Suffolk Wildlife Trust please view the full audited annual accounts which are available on our website or can be requested from Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Brooke House, Ashbocking, Ipswich IP6 9JY. The full audited accounts will also be submitted to the Charity Commission and Registrar of Companies.

At the beginning of each financial year the Trustees calculate a target level of free reserves that equates to 3-6 months of budgeted establishment and core staff costs. Reserves above this level were maintained throughout the year.

The targeted reserves for 2022-23 have been calculated as £670k-£1340k and funds above this level can be designated to specific projects, particularly the acquisition of nature reserves.

Calum Thomson, Hon Treasurer



# A year for wildlife



## Brook lamprey at Knettishall Heath

One of the things that makes Knettishall Heath such a rich place for wildlife is the gradual blending of habitats from the higher dry heath down to the Little Ouse. It was the valley that provided the reserve volunteers with a rare discovery whilst clearing a clogged stream – a brook lamprey.

A primitive, jawless fish resembling an eel, the brook lamprey is the smallest of the UK's lamprey species. Unlike the eel, it is a non-migratory freshwater species generally found in streams. It needs clean gravel beds for spawning, where the current is not too strong and soft marginal silt or sand for the larvae.

Restoring naturally-functioning, wilder rivers will create the varied conditions species like lamprey need across their lifecycle.



## Celebrating 60 years of Suffolk Wildlife Trust

We were delighted to welcome HRH the Princess Royal to Carlton Marshes to celebrate the Trust's 60th year and the opening of the visitor centre, viewpoints and trails on the 1,000 acre reserve. Few nature reserves have a town as large as Lowestoft on their doorstep, and her visit, albeit under covid-19 restrictions, was an opportunity for celebration and to thank key volunteers, staff and partners. Their support, and that of thousands of Trust members and the local community, has turned our ambitious vision for Carlton Marshes to become the southern gateway to the Broads National Park into reality.

There were wildlife successes to celebrate too, with the new wetland habitats fledging the most lapwing and avocet chicks of any Suffolk coastal site.



## European roller at Lackford Lakes

Visitors to Lackford Lakes are often in search of the flashes of azure and orange of the resident kingfishers, but this year hundreds of people visited for another colourful spectacle – a European roller. It was the first record of the species in Suffolk for ten years, and one of only a handful since the 1950s. Rollers are lauded for their beauty and striking appearance and the bird, which stayed in the local area for over a week, treated people to remarkable views more usually associated with exotic holidays.

Lackford Lakes is known for the close-up views of wetland wildlife it offers and this year we added to this with the opening of the new double-decker viewpoint, offering panoramic views over the lakes and into the tree canopy.

APRIL  
2021

MAY  
2021

JUNE  
2021



# Highlights from April 21 to September 21



## Purple emperor in our ancient woodlands

The spring wildflowers and butterflies in the glades and rides of our ancient woodlands are the reward for the hard work of the winter coppice cycle – but it is high up in the canopy in high summer that one of the great comebacks of the past decade is playing out.

Purple emperor butterfly became extinct in Suffolk sometime in the 1950s to 1960s almost certainly as a consequence of the decline in woodland management and the loss of ancient woodlands during that period. Over the last five years populations have been moving north into Suffolk from Essex and they are now an established breeding species in a number of woods including three of our ancient woodlands – Bradfield Woods, Bonny Wood and Bull's Wood.



## Basking reptiles at Snape Marshes

Amidst the waders and wildfowl, the botanical richness of Snape Marshes is easily overlooked, yet in June there were well over 1,000 southern marsh-orchid spikes. Not all sections of the marsh are quite so rich and this year Trust staff and volunteers spread green hay from the most floristically diverse areas to help nature along.

In high summer reptiles take centre stage, basking on the heathland edge. All four species of Suffolk reptiles are found in good numbers here. For reptiles, as for visitors, it is the mix of habitats within a relatively small site that make Snape Marshes so special.

You can enjoy the reserve with a virtual guided walk, one of six we filmed this year: [suffolkwildlifetrust.org/virtual-wild-walks](https://suffolkwildlifetrust.org/virtual-wild-walks)



## Spoonbills feeding at Hazlewood Marshes

When the North Sea tidal surge in December 2013 broke through the river wall between the marshes and the Alde estuary, Hazlewood Marshes was transformed from grazing marsh into saline inter-tidal lagoon. Shallow inter-tidal waters are perfect fish nurseries and specialist surveys completed this year found large numbers of juvenile fish from nine different species. This in turn attracts fish eating birds, including egrets and spoonbills. Once considered rare and exotic visitors in Suffolk, spoonbills are now a regular sight at Hazlewood Marshes throughout the summer with a peak of 34 birds this year.

With rising sea levels, change is coming to the Suffolk coast. Hazlewood Marshes has become one of the first places this has happened on a significant scale.

JULY  
2021

AUGUST  
2021

SEPTEMBER  
2021



# A year for wildlife



## Standing up for Suffolk's nature coast

Our wonderful, wild Suffolk coast is increasingly being referred to as the energy coast, with the major national infrastructure projects and cabling linked to onshore and offshore energy production. The biggest of these is the proposal for Sizewell C.

Alongside the RSPB, we spent a gruelling six months to October 2021 engaging in the Sizewell C Public Examination. We made positive progress to alleviate some of the detrimental impacts on wildlife but still have significant concerns about its impact on our nature coast.

As well as the loss of terrestrial habitat, the power station's cooling water system could cause the death of millions of fish and other small marine creatures each year, and as a result reduce food supplies for sea birds.



## Snow buntings at Trimley Marshes

Our eastern-most coast offers the first landfall for birds arriving to spend the winter here, or just passing through. Snow buntings have a breeding stronghold around the Arctic Circle and come south in winter to escape the extremities of weather and to find food. Typically, between 10,000 and 15,000 snow buntings overwinter in the UK, scattered in small flocks along the coast. Five were spotted this year at Trimley Marshes.

Suffolk's vegetated shingle beaches offer ideal feeding grounds, allowing them to forage on loose seeds almost completely unnoticed – until the flock flies quickly to another patch of shingle. Approximately one-third of vegetated shingle in Europe is found in the UK, and of this, about one-fifth is on the Suffolk coast.



## Wilding and winter thrushes at Black Bourn Valley

This year the installation of a perimeter fence encircling the whole reserve was a landmark in the wilding journey of Black Bourn Valley. The riverside meadows, woodland, grassland, ponds and thorny scrub now merge naturally across the landscape and grazing animals can roam freely between them. This shift will allow nature to drive the development of an intricate habitat mosaic capable of supporting the greatest diversity of species.

In the winter months the thick hedges that spill out along the field edges and impenetrable thickets of hawthorn, blackthorn and dog rose are a rich source of berries for redwing and fieldfare. Alongside them, the grassland developing on the former arable fields offers a plentiful supply of seeds for linnet, yellowhammer and goldfinch.

OCTOBER  
2021

NOVEMBER  
2021

DECEMBER  
2021



# Highlights from October 21 to March 22



## A wilder future for Foxburrow

After the last harvest in 2021, the pair of red kites now regularly seen over Foxburrow, near Woodbridge, are a welcome talisman for the wilding of the farm. Stepping back from farming and letting nature take the lead, the landscape will gradually morph into a complex patchwork of woodland, scrub and grassland dotted with ponds and other features that benefit wildlife. There will be no planting or large-scale interventions other than at some point in the next few years, light grazing to maintain a mosaic of open and more wooded habitats.

Most importantly, Foxburrow will remain a wonderful place for people of all ages to learn about our natural world, and as the wilding gains momentum, to savour the abundance of wildlife.



## Stag beetles from Storm Eunice

One of the lessons nature conservation learnt from the Great Storm of 1987 was not to rush to tidy up our woodlands and instead to let fallen trees lie, as nature intended.

Fortunately our woodlands escaped significant damage from Storm Eunice, and wherever possible those trees that were lost will be left to slowly decay and provide decades of deadwood habitat for invertebrates, fungi and species that feed on them.

One such case was a mature alder toppled by the windy weather at Newbourn Springs. Whilst it is sad to lose a landmark tree, the fallen giant is in the southern band of the county where stag beetles occur and as the wood rots could host generations of larvae of these magnificent beetles.



## Living alongside Lowestoft's kittiwakes

With spring just around the corner and the imminent return of kittiwakes to their nesting colonies on buildings in Lowestoft and on the Suffolk coast at Sizewell, the Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership was formed. Kittiwakes are messy house guests and are not always welcomed to the ledges of homes and businesses.

Last year, images on social media showing kittiwakes tangled in netting that had been installed on buildings to prevent them nesting sparked outrage from local wildlife lovers – both for the individual birds' welfare and worry for a species vulnerable to global extinction. The Lowestoft Kittiwake Partnership includes Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, councils, business groups, community members and the local MP and seeks to work with businesses and building owners to safeguard nesting sites.

**JANUARY**  
2022

**FEBRUARY**  
2022

**MARCH**  
2022



# More space for nature

Growing our nature reserves into significant blocks of land that are connected into the wider countryside, giving wildlife space to thrive and colonise new areas, continues to be a major focus for the Trust.



Rowley Grove is the quintessential English bluebell wood.



Dormouse live at low density and need well-connected habitat to survive.

## **This year we extended three reserves, in all adding 101 acres (41 ha) to the land we care for.**

Over the course of the year, through articles for Trust members in Suffolk Wildlife magazine, we have shared our ambition to make the decade to 2030 the one in which we bring nature back. We want our county to bask once again in the joyful abundance of wildlife in our daily lives.

As we look to have more influence on the landscape beyond our reserves, we will of course continue to cherish these priceless jewels in our landscape and as we have this year, seize opportunities to extend reserves – and indeed establish new ones. In the wilder future we strive for, our reserves will have a renewed sense of purpose as the ecological hotspots that can seed nature's recovery into the surrounding landscape.

Over the past 25 years, the National Lottery Heritage Fund has helped buy and restore nature reserves across Suffolk. They now have a vital role to play in our county's future.

## **Arger Fen & Spouse's Vale**

Rowley Grove, a pocket of ancient woodland adjoining Arger Fen & Spouse's Vale nature reserve, near Sudbury, was put up for sale in spring 2021. We needed to act quickly to secure its future as part of the nature reserve. Thanks to Anne Walton and others who remembered Suffolk Wildlife Trust in their Will, we were able to do just that.

In spring a tapestry of bluebells, stitchwort and yellow archangel weaves amongst the small leaved lime and wild cherry trees. It is simply exquisite, and now forever under the protective ownership of the Trust.

**Larger and better-connected habitats are more resilient to climate change.**

**The Wildlife Trusts are raising awareness of the impact of climate change on the UK's species and habitats.**







Market Weston Fen is known for its rarities, including marsh helleborine.



The drier conditions on the new land will add to the diversity of habitats at Market Weston Fen.



The rich Broadland dykes at Carlton Marshes enable species to move through the landscape.

## Carlton Marshes

The past two decades have seen a remarkable transformation of the landscape of the Suffolk Broads. Through 23 different land purchases, we have pieced isolated blocks of marsh and fen together, like a giant jigsaw. Castle Marshes, Carlton Marshes and Oulton Marshes nature reserves are now linked up, across a 1,000 acre wetland landscape. It is an astonishing, irrepressible celebration of nature.

This year, thanks to a legacy from Jacqueline Humphreys, we have added another piece with the purchase of a small marsh on the western edge of the reserve. For wetlands like Carlton Marshes, scale and connectivity is everything, enabling water vole, dragonflies, fen raft spider, insectivorous bladderwort and the tiny aquatic snails that have their UK stronghold here, to thrive and spread.

## Market Weston Fen

Home to an extraordinary variety of plants and invertebrates, Market Weston Fen is exceptional in its biological richness. Some like the pale-flowered form of early marsh-orchid are exceedingly scarce in Suffolk. A great many others are simply 'rare'!

Early in 2022, thanks to the generosity of members, supporters and a legacy from Rosemary Wilson, we added a substantial block of grassland and arable fields alongside the fen. This offers a new and hugely exciting opportunity to 'let nature take the lead' and watch the fields transition naturally into nature reserve.

Market Weston has always been a place for the extraordinary, but this new wilder dimension will make the reserve equally important for the once-common wildlife we need to bring back to our countryside.



Carlton Marshes was the most successful breeding site for lapwing on Suffolk's coast this year.

**Legacies unlock the wilder, nature-rich landscape we want for Suffolk. Every reserve purchase is seeded by the generosity of nature lovers who remembered Suffolk Wildlife Trust in their Will.**

Legacy gifts are recorded in our Book of Remembrance to commemorate the generosity of those who remember the Trust in their Wills.

**This year we remember, with thanks:**

David Baker  
Inez Benham  
Penelope Berry  
Ann Boxall  
Winston Briggs  
Raymond Carpenter  
Lauretta Goldman  
Peter Grimwade  
Joyce Haines  
Diana Hearle

Trevor Hickman  
Raymond Jessup  
Jennifer Johnson  
Sheila Ladell  
June Ludlow  
Susan Mansfield  
Mary Morris  
Kathleen Nelson  
Gerry & Jean  
Parton

Robert Peck  
Mary Bryan Pryor  
Peter Rogerson  
Anne Seward  
Sylvia Small  
Anthony Stacey  
Patrick Stones  
Sally Taylor  
Mary Thompson  
Margaret Williams



# More people on nature's side

**We want to make the world of nature a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone, to enable more people to be part of the Trust and do their bit for wildlife.**

This year, as we celebrated our 60th anniversary year, we reflected on the changes to our county in that time, and more importantly in the face of the nature and climate crises, set our ambition for the future. For the Trust, the decade to 2030 will be the one in which we reimagine a wilder future for Suffolk and harness the collective efforts of our county to put nature on a path to recovery.

We have recruited a new Planning and Advocacy team this year, and will be relentless in fighting nature's corner – but holding the line is simply not enough. Over the past year, Trust members will have begun to see the shift in the scale and pace of our activity beyond our reserves. We need wilder gardens, churchyards, schools, businesses, rivers and farms.

Under the banner 'Team Wilder' we are growing a team of staff and volunteers and

using our network of centres to support this. We need everyone to play their part – and our superpower to make this happen, as it has been throughout our 60 years, is our localness.



SARAH GROVES; DAISY HAWKINS; ADOBE STOCK; JOHN FERGUSON



**Suffolk is a farming county – our new team of Farmland Wildlife Advisers reflects this.**



To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee, Heritage Fund have supported Nextdoor Nature projects in every Wildlife Trust. Our project will work with communities in Ipswich.





Bringing nature back  
needs everyone to play  
their part. Our new  
Community Advisers  
are here to help.



## 30% of land and sea in recovery for nature

This year we have recruited a team of Farmland, River and Community Wildlife Advisers to allow the step change in our impact outside our nature reserves – to champion landscape-scale approaches to nature's recovery. In the same way that we lost so much of our wildlife in Suffolk, so we can bring it back – piece by piece. A new hedge, a restored pond, wildlife gardens, field margins, community spaces, businesses, new natural woodlands, wilder rivers.

## One in four people acting for nature

Expect to hear us talking much more about bio-abundance as well as bio-diversity. Under our new 'Team Wilder' banner, launched this year, we will work with others to support and enable everyone to play their part in bringing nature back where they live, work or go to school. This collective, county-wide community-led action will help to restore the abundance of everyday nature and bring wildlife to the fore in individual and community decision making.

## Thank you to our business supporters

### Platinum Investors

Axter Ltd  
BUCHI UK Ltd  
Essex & Suffolk Water  
Herrco  
Treatt plc  
UK Power Networks

### Gold Investors

Abellio  
Anglian Water  
Bauder  
Breedon  
Climax Molybdenum  
Somerleyton Hall & Gardens  
Suffolk Hideaways  
Toolbox Group  
Transdec

### Silver Investors

Atwells Solicitors  
Aura Brand Solutions  
Barnes Construction  
Birketts  
CenterParcs  
Culford School  
Harwich Haven  
Notcutts  
Process Instrument Sales  
Roger Balmer Design  
Smart Meter Assets

### Bronze Investors

Our Bronze Investors are listed on our website.

## And our funders

We are grateful to the many individuals, Charitable Trusts, grant-making bodies and statutory organisations that support us, including:

Anglian Water  
Barbara Whatmore CT  
Dedham Vale AONB  
Green Recovery Challenge Fund  
Highways England  
Leslie Mary Carter CT  
Lord Belstead CT  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
Pamela Matthews CT  
People's Postcode Lottery  
Saxham Trust  
Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB  
Suffolk Building Society  
Suffolk County Council  
Suffolk Secrets  
Swire CT  
The Big Give

Thanks to their commitment, we can keep doing more for nature across Suffolk.



# Thank you to our 1,600 volunteers



Action for wildlife, led by local people, is Suffolk Wildlife Trust's great strength. When the Trust began in 1961 it was entirely led by volunteers. 60 years on, that volunteer spirit is stronger than ever and every aspect of our work for nature is enriched by volunteers.

Just as society has found ways to adapt to living with covid-19, so too have our volunteers, returning in force to their vital roles across the county... managing reserves, monitoring species, welcoming visitors, leading guided walks, checking livestock, sharing their love of nature with children, serving coffee, delivering magazines, fundraising or giving habitat management

advice. The scale and breadth of volunteer activity across the Trust is simply magnificent. Thank you to you all. From our Board of Trustees to our teenage Young Wardens, our volunteers bring integrity and community to everything we do and make Suffolk Wildlife Trust the vibrant, ambitious, grounded charity that we are – and that nature needs us to be.



## Volunteer of the year 2021 – Justin & Ellie Zantboer

Justin and Ellie are bird ringers at Trimley Marshes, contributing data and insights to support the reserve management. Most recently they were able to confirm nightingale were breeding. Their annual report puts their ringing data into a wider conservation context, reflecting the global journeys of Trimley's birds.

But it was lockdown nature recording from their garden that set them apart this year. With so much volunteering impacted by the Coronavirus restrictions, they took to Twitter and Instagram to share their nature experiences through lockdown. Their garden moths in particular were a joyous daily dose of nature for so many.

JOHN FERGUSON, BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, ALAMY



**Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

Registered charity no 262777

**Suffolk Wildlife Trust**  
Brooke House  
Ashbocking, Ipswich IP6 9JY  
01473 890089  
teamwilder@suffolkwildlifetrust.org  
[suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://suffolkwildlifetrust.org)

# Thank you all!

We are proud to be part of a UK-wide network of Wildlife Trusts, working together to bring nature back.