

Annual Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2015

as at 31 March 2015

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Board of Directors:

Trustees serving during the year to 31st March 2015:

Alison Wright
Andrew Mendus

Anne Taylor (to October 2014) Anthony Clarke (to December 2014) Carolyn Vickery (to October 2014)

Christine Packer Colin Macintosh

David Counsell (from October 2014)
Edward Halpin (to October 2014)
Gordon Scaife (to October 2014)
Gus Mclaren (from October 2014)
Hugh Williamson (from October 2014)
Joanna Royle (from October 2014)
John Lawton (to October 2014)
John MacArthur (from October 2014)
Louise Farnell
Paul Burgess (to October 2014)

Richard Donner Robert Adams (to October 2014)

Robert Missin (from October 2014) Vanessa Schofield

Officers of the Trust

President
Sir John Lawton

Honorary Life Vice Presidents
Derrick Boatman
Maurice Nethercoat

Chair of the Board Vanessa Schofield

Company Secretary
Alison Wright

Honorary Treasurer Andrew Mendus

Reference and administrative details:

Charity number 210807 Company number 409650

Principal office 1 St. George's Place,

York, YO24 1GN

Legal Advisors

Harland & Co, 18 St Saviourgate, York, YO1 8NS Rollits, Rowntree Wharf, Navigation Road, York, YO1 9WE Walker Morris, 12 King St, Leeds, LS1 2HL

Auditors

Saffery Champness, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, Mitre House, North Park Road, Harrogate, HG1 5RX

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc, 1 Parliament Street, York, YO1 1SE

Patrons

Stephen Martin Paul Sykes

Report of the Board of Trustees

The Trustees of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are pleased to present their 70th Annual Report and the Audited Accounts for the year to 31st March 2015.

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in 2005 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee, governed by its Articles of Association.

Objects and activities

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust works for a Yorkshire rich in wildlife, valued and enjoyed by everyone.

Charitable Objects

The objects for which the Trust is established are:

- For the benefit of the public, to advance, promote Development Plan identifies nine objectives: and further the conservation, maintenance and protection of: wildlife and its habitats; places of natural beauty; places of zoological, botanical, geographical, archaeological or scientific interest; features of landscape with geological, physiographical, or amenity value in particular, but not exclusively, in ways that further biodiversity.
- To advance the education of the public in: the principles and practice of sustainable development; and the principles and practice of biodiversity conservation.
- To promote research in all branches of nature study and to publish the useful results thereof.

Development Plan

In pursuance of these charitable objects, the Trust's

- Objective 1 To create Living Landscapes
- Objective 2 To secure Living Seas
- Objective 3 To inspire people about the natural world
- Objective 4 To encourage individual action for wildlife and the environment
- Objective 5 To increase our influence
- Objective 6 To raise our profile
- Objective 7 To grow our resources
- Objective 8 To cooperate effectively throughout the movement
- Objective 9 To develop excellence in strategic leadership and governance

The Trustees also 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.

Report of the Board of Trustees - Strategic Report

Strategic Report

In line with the Wildlife Trusts' Partnership of 47 local Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, YWT adopted Living Landscapes and Living Seas as its core twin mission in 2013. This twin-mission is all encompassing, with the aim to secure nature's recovery across Yorkshire, within our urban and rural areas, freshwaters and coasts, and out to sea. Protecting particular sites, often as nature reserves, is the founding principle of the Wildlife Trusts but it was always hoped that wildlife would re-emerge from these refuges when the time is right. The vision of the Wildlife Trusts is one in which wildlife moves freely through the countryside, towns and cities and where resilient and healthy ecosystems provide ecological security for people.

Creating Living Landscapes can make this vision a reality. Living Landscapes are extensive ecosystems that are resilient and interconnected, full of wildlife and rich in opportunities for learning, health and wellbeing. They can support sustainable local economies and safeguard our wildlife through an unprecedented period of climate change, and increased pressure on resources from a growing population. Living Landscapes are fundamental for society; a healthy sustainable society is based on a healthy sustainable environment rich in wildlife.

Our inshore and marine wildlife is amongst the richest and most diverse in the world, but it is mostly unseen, under-protected and under-valued. Our vision of Living Seas is one of recovery, where wildlife thrives from the depths of the ocean to the coastal shallows. Wildlife Trusts can inspire society to use our seas more sustainably and help slow down climate change, protecting critical habitats and enabling wildlife and habitats to recover from past decline. Living Seas can ensure a sustainable food resource and support local economies. Our seas can, if allowed to recover, play a central role in the nation's history, identity, wealth and happiness.

But.....and it is a huge but, achieving this vision is a hard task and set against a bleak prognosis. The State of Nature Report, written by a partnership of the conservation organisations across the UK, gave a gloomy picture;

"We have quantitative assessments of the population or distribution trends of 3,148 species. Of these, 60% of species have declined over the last 50 years and 31% have declined strongly. Half of the species assessed have shown strong changes in abundance or distribution, indicating that recent environmental changes are having a dramatic impact on the nature of the UK's land and seas".

As the largest conservation organisation working in Yorkshire, YWT cannot be complacent and yet when YWT compares itself to other Wildlife Trusts, on pretty much any relative benchmark, for example number of members per head of population; area of nature reserve per km²; or investment in conservation per km², then YWT is shown to be one of the weaker Trusts. As such, the dominant theme of YWT's response to the State of Nature, encapsulated in its 5-year Development Plan, is to grow. Yorkshire deserves a Wildlife Trust that is at least average in terms of its reach and activity.

It also needs to be effective and efficient, playing to the Wildlife Trusts' strengths of being a local on-the-ground focussed organisation making a difference at a community scale, but set within action and thinking at a regional, national, country-wide and international scale. The Wildlife Trusts structure of county based local Wildlife Trusts, which work together at a regional level and operate the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts to work at a national and international level, gives us great strength.

Report of the Board of Trustees - Strategic Report

Yorkshire, though, is a region rather than a county giving the Trust an additional challenge of localising our operation to an equivalent 'county' level. This sets out the second dominant theme in the Development Plan – one of localisation, regionalising frontline operations into a regional teams. In this way, we can be both local and efficient, using the economy of scale of being one of the largest Wildlife Trusts in the partnership to operate those functions that are most efficiently organised at Trust-wide Yorkshire level – administration, finance, fundraising, marketing etc.

Yet all of this comes to naught, if we cannot take the majority of the population with us. The decline of nature is a 'death by a thousand cuts' – the accumulation of millions of individual decisions that we all make in which nature plays no part. By way of an example, a high speed railway to London is attractive but little thought is given to the ecological impact of slicing through Yorkshire's nature reserves, woodlands and meadows. YWT led on a project to show how HS2 could be developed to enhance wildlife rather than destroying it, building a naturalistic corridor of greenspace surrounding the trackway. The cost: a mere 0.5% of the total HS2 budget, but would represent the largest single nature conservation project ever seen in the UK. Will this ground-breaking report have any traction of HS2 decision-makers? We'll see. How much more traction would that report have if the consultant/project manager/politician/journalist had a passion for wildlife running through his or her soul. We need to give people – lots of people – the opportunity to get involved in wildlife, taking them on a journey up a ladder of involvement, from simple inspiration, education, guided action and ultimately undertaking nature conservation as part of the way they live. We refer to this as the 'engagement ladder' or our 'ladder of involvement'.

We recognise that people need places to get on the 'ladder' and YWT needs places to work from, to organise its volunteers from, to educate schoolchildren, to store its equipment and vehicles, to accommodate its staff and so on. From this aspiration, the Plan sets out the Gateway sites concept. Places that literally act as a 'gateway' to nature conservation – flagship sites that can inspire and educate people and have the right facilities for YWT to make an effective difference.

From this mix, the dominant themes of the Plan emerge:

- Creating Living Landscapes across Yorkshire
- Restoring biological abundance and diversity to a Living North Sea
- Localising frontline operations into regional teams
- Taking people up a ladder of involvement
- Developing Gateway sites
- · Becoming an average Wildlife Trust in terms of reach
- Being effective and efficient, using the economy of scale of a large Trust to be efficient and supporting our conservation partners, especially the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, to make us more effective

The five year plan is a framework. What we actually do, year-by-year depends on the starting point for the year, the resources available to us (money, staff, equipment, knowledge and skill in particular), the opportunities available to us and the verve and tenacity of people – staff, volunteers and supporters – to get stuff done. YWT attempts to summarise this into its annual business plans.

Report of the Board of Trustees - Strategic Report

Achievements, performance and financial review

Business planning for 2014-15 proved more difficult than usual. Some large projects, such as the Stirley Community Farm Local Food Project, ended in 2013-14 with other programmes ending during the year (such as the York Dig-In project). New projects were taken on, but many of these required match funding to enact. Developing a balanced budget proved difficult, and the Board eventually approved a substantial deficit budget to maintain momentum, whilst there was a recognition that aspirations to increase community engagement, particularly in Yorkshire's strongly urban populations were unlikely to transpire.

However, YWT went into the year with confidence and typical gusto hoping for a variety of 'irons-in-the-fire' to transpire. The deficit was drawn from financial reserves above the target level ascertained by YWT's finance and risk committee and approved by the Board – a financially prudent budget but nevertheless one reflecting the financial head-winds from public expenditure cuts, increased competition for grants and that the Yorkshire economy had yet to emerge from the recession.

As it turned out, exceptional generosity by those that left us money in their wills, that some of our 'irons in the fire' (grant applications) were successful and through careful budget management, YWT grew with total turnover rising from £5.7 million to £5.9 million though this growth masks a reduction in grant funding, that was more than offset by legacy receipts and membership income growth. On the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), a substantial surplus of just over £1 million is shown. The SOFA is a bit confusing here as that figure includes about £0.6m of asset capitalisation (net of depreciation), i.e. where we have bought land or equipment or extended and renovated buildings. In this case, the figure includes the purchase of land at Copper Hall Farm in Skerne East Yorkshire, renovation of the Stirley Community Farm buildings, the extension to the Living Seas Centre, renovation of the Spurn Lighthouse and the purchase of some vehicles. The value of these are all added to the balance sheet but in practice, we are unlikely to ever realise their value. As such, the 'real' surplus' is £0.45m, which is shown in balance sheet as an increase in the crucial general unrestricted funds (our financial reserve) from £0.65m to £1.1m.

The financial picture is good and mirrors a great year on the ground. Here are some of the highlights:

Living Landscapes

The amount of money spent on work to build Living Landscapes dropped from last year, from £3.6m to £3.1m but this largely relates to a lower volume of work for Yorkshire Water on peatland restoration – the bulk of YWT's Living Landscape work continues unabated. It is also worth noting that a further £0.7m was spent through the Yorkshire Peat Partnership 'agency' scheme. Here, YWT acts as agent to land-managers (and hence the money is not shown in the accounts) to progress their peatland restoration schemes where they do not have the capacity to do it themselves. YWT has to borrow significant sums to enable this but the scheme works well and the loans are short-term (see note 14 for detail). Most importantly, this represents a further £0.7m of conservation work in addition to the £3.1m shown in the accounts.

Report of the Board of Trustees - Strategic Report

Examples of YWT's Living Landscape work includes work in the River Hull catchment with land acquisition at Copper Hall Farm connecting Skerne Wetlands and Snakeholme Pastures and fen and wet grassland creation commencing on Leven Carrs whilst new Biffa funding has allowed YWT to continue its focus on the River Ouse. With Environment Agency support, the West Yorkshire team ran the innovative invasive species project encouraging hundreds of volunteers to map invasive species using a specially designed telephone app to allow carefully targeted work to eradicate invasive species from the Aire and Calder catchments.

The peat project was again extremely active, restoring a further 6,000 ha of peatland in the Dales. The project has brought into conservation management 23,000 ha of peatland. This is more than half of the 40,000 ha of damaged peatlands in Yorkshire representing one of the biggest conservation projects in the UK and constituting a massive success for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

On the coast, the Outer Humber project secured new funds to continue work to bring coastal salt-marsh and grasslands into conservation management. Inland, more magnesian limestone habitat was created through the mag lime project and through land acquisition at Brockadale whilst habitat creation and enhancement has been a significant feature of the Nature Improvement Area in the Humberhead Levels.

Our Living Landscape work also includes the massive effort that continues year-in, year-out to manage our 97 nature reserves. A particular highlight has been work to extend Potteric Carr nature reserve with land at Carr Lodge now under active restoration to wetlands, meadows and woodland and late-stage negotiations to bring Loversall Carr into the reserve – a very significant expansion. Other highlights include bringing Priory Fields on the edge of Hull into conservation management through the installation of new fencing and the construction of a new viewing area at North Cave. This provides great views over the old reserve and is replete with a fabulous bird feeding station. The work at North Cave wetlands was given recognition with the award of the Wildlife Trusts Cadbury Medal to Stephen Martin, YWT patron and long-time instigator of all things North Cave Wetlands.

Living Seas

Here we see a slight increase in expenditure, up from £0.2m to £0.22m. This is only a very small part of YWT's charitable activity expenditure (only 4.4%) yet represents a big part of YWT's ambition to make a substantial conservation difference. The team is small – just three dedicated staff and some amazing trainees and volunteers, yet remains the largest marine conservation effort in Northern England. The team pushed forward on three fronts: advocacy, working with the inshore fishing industry and raising awareness.

Last year, our advocacy work for a better licencing and regulation of activities in the marine environment, to ensure sustainable use of the North Sea, continued. YWT helped DEFRA to implement 'red-list' management activities in the North Sea marine protected areas. A significant milestone was that many of the North Sea proposed marine conservation zones are now earmarked for designation, though we need to continue campaigning for Compass Rose and Holderness Offshore.

Report of the Board of Trustees - Strategic Report

We made good progress in developing a partnership with the inshore fishery industry (mostly potting) to improve fishing techniques and create a local and traceable seafood market, although we have identified some very significant hurdles to this initiative and we recognise that truly sustainable inshore fishing either needs a big culture shift within the fishing community or much tighter regulation.

The awareness campaign has been bolstered by work to build an extension at the Living Seas Centre, creating a dedicated classroom space (the Living Seas Discovery Room) to allow the visitor centre to operate even when school children are using the Centre. Despite these works (which were completed for Easter 2015), the Centre had its most successful year, welcoming over 15,000 visitors and running over 30 school sessions. In addition, the team continue to run Living Seas Safari boat trips, lead National Marine Week for the North Sea Wildlife Trusts and have built links with the Flamborough Bird Observatory to widen the Living Seas messages of an interconnected world.

Despite not having dedicated funding, YWT have also undertaken a wide-reaching marine wildlife survey and training programme; Wild Workshops on diving, cetacean ID and marine life classification; funded specific survey work gathering data to support the designation of the Holderness Offshore proposed marine protection area; monitored eelgrass beds at Spurn as part of the red-list activity review; established a volunteer led marine litter programme called Waves of Waste resulting in 21 beach cleans; and designed a methodology and secured a small amount of funding to run a non-native monitoring survey project at sites up and down the coast.

Regionalisation

This is the dominant internal theme of the 2013-2018 Development Plan in which there is a strong aspiration to play to the Wildlife Trusts' strengths of being very local in its operational delivery but setting that in regional, national and global thinking. In 2014-15, budget limitations and staff changes led YWT to drop from seven to five regions – Humberhead Levels and Coalfields (south), Aire and Calder Valleys (west), Vale of York, Wolds and Holderness (East), Northern Yorkshire and Marine alongside a dedicated volunteering team. These units are still a little unwieldy requiring some organisation flex to cope with the wax and wane of different projects and programmes. A particular issue has been the need for two of the Regional Managers to focus much of their time on Gateway development at Stirley Farm and Spurn Point.

The ladder of involvement

As expected, this area of work (titled inspiring and involving people on the SOFA) dropped significantly from £0.9m to £0.74m as a result of two of the big people and wildlife projects coming to an end – the Local Food project at Stirley Farm and the Dig In project in York.

Funding for trainee schemes also completely dried up during the year. Replacing these funds has proven to be very difficult with very few funding streams now available for this sort of work. Nevertheless, we now have dedicated education centres at Potteric Carr, Stirley Community Farm and the Living Seas Centre, though more effort is required to operate those centres at full capacity.

Report of the Board of Trustees - Strategic Report

During the year, the HLF-funded Spurn Communities along the Sand project began. This creates another significant centre of activity with a multitude of events, school sessions, workshops and training programmes underway.

Despite any Government funding for training young people being unavailable, given its channelling to colleges or the Work Programme that is run by huge private sector companies rather than modest sized charities, YWT has remained committed to its volunteer trainee scheme. We now have over 20 trainees on the scheme adding to YWT's 700 active volunteers. The volunteering scheme is both part of YWT's programme to involve people in nature conservation and a big force for getting work done across the breadth of YWT's operations, amounting to over 40,000 hours per year valued at nearly £0.9m per year.

Gateways and hubs

Substantial progress has been made during the year to develop our Gateway sites. HLF, EON and Coastal Communities Funding is now all in place to turn Spurn into a regional visitor attraction, though planning issues are complex. At Stirley Community Farm, the Eve Dawnay legacy and grant funding has been used to complete landscaping around the buildings and finish the farmhouse as the new office. Work on the new cattle barn has unfortunately been delayed because of footpath issues. Whilst the adjoining barn still needs restoration, Stirley Community Farm is now fully functional as a Gateway operation. We are also looking at a new visitor centre for Potteric Carr and work to extend the Living Seas Centre was mostly completed by the end of the year. We have maintained hub sites at Pearson Park (reinstating a full-time Hull Community Greenspaces Officer) and Appleton Mill Farm (developing a new sub-regional office for NE Yorkshire, though poor broadband connectivity means its use is limited).

Effectiveness and efficiency

Supporting work undertaken in regional teams are those frontline activities that, for reasons of scale or efficiency, are best organised at a Yorkshire level.

Communications: This year, YWT received independent analysis of its brand for the first time showing unprompted brand awareness running at between 4% and 7% with significant sub-regional variation reflecting YWT activity in the area. Whilst this is low, we suspect it has risen markedly during the past decade as our communications work is reaching ever more people. For example, the number of 'likes' (those that are linked to our pages) on YWT's Facebook page rose from ca. 3000 to 4,500 during the year. We see similar increases for those viewing the website, following us on Twitter or viewing YWT pictures on Flickr. This is important as our communications are an essential part of our attempts to inspire and educate – the base of the ladder of engagement.

Central services – backing up frontline services is careful back-office work: HR, IT, land administration, biodiversity data management and collection, financial services and resource (buildings and equipment) management. The cost of this operation is shown in note 7, appearing to increase on the previous year (from £0.81m to £0.88m) though this largely relates to increased depreciation reflecting the assets bought during the year.

Report of the Board of Trustees - Strategic Report

If depreciation is stripped out, support costs have dropped by ca. £10,000 mainly as a result of efficiency savings in relation to vehicle use, mobile phones and insurance. This gives a respectable 11% cost of support services as a percentage of turnover.

Conservation policy: YWT put together a detailed strategy to lobby prospective parliamentary candidates in the run-up to the 2015 General Election. Working closely with the Wildlife Trusts Partnership, YWT called for two main 'asks' – commitment to completing the development of an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas and to bringing into statute a new Nature and Wellbeing Act. All the main parties picked up the themes behind these asks. In addition, YWT maintained its conservation planning work, helping Local Planning Authorities to improve their Local Plans and commenting on various development proposals that affect wildlife. In particular, we mounted a vigorous campaign to stop the allocation of housing within the York Local Plan on land next to Askham Bog and the Heslington Tillmire.

Resourcing

In general this was another remarkable year for YWT, with membership rising to over 39,000 and overall turnover rising to nearly £6 million. As ever, the generosity of YWT's supporters was remarkable. We thank all those that support us financially (membership income increased from £0.91m to £0.99m) and also recognise that together we make for a significant force for nature conservation. Local planning officers are interested in YWT's views on development, for example, not just because of the quality of our data and knowledge of conservation law and practice but because our comments are backed by 39,000 members.

Increasing our membership is critical to maintaining that influence and sustaining long-term success. As such, YWT invested a considerable amount asking people to join YWT, via its in-house team of face-to-face recruiters and by working with REAL fundraising to recruit members on the door-step. This investment is money well spent as members stay with YWT for a long time, usually for more than five years. Testament to our members and other supporters was the tremendous support shown for a dedicated Barn Owl campaign that was an amazing success.

Likewise, we thank the players of the People's Postcode Lottery, whose Postcode Lottery Green Fund donated £0.2m to YWT. Most extraordinary of all was the incredible support shown by those that we cannot now thank as they left us money in their wills. YWT received £0.87m – we are immensely grateful. These legacies allowed us to match European Fishery Funding for the Living Seas Extension, complete the restoration of the Stirley Farm Office, provide funding for a new agricultural barn at Stirley Farm amongst many other activities. They make a fitting legacy for future generations. Our investment portfolio also showed strong returns, generating ca. £0.1m investment returns that is mostly used to build the North Cave Wetlands endowment.

Report of the Board of Trustees - Strategic Report

Plans for future years

YWT is three years into its 2013-18 development plan and good progress has been made. We will continue to focus on our core twin mission of Living Landscapes and Living Seas and have grown well (on track to becoming an average Wildlife Trust in terms of reach) despite the post-recession 'age of austerity' although public sector funding has significantly reduced. The 2015-16 plan builds on this growth, focusing once again on developing Gateway sites, maintaining our community, education and training programmes as well as undertaking a wide variety of habitat enhancement work on our own nature reserves and other people's land in targeted Living Landscape areas.

Work to develop the Gateway sites will continue at Stirley Community Farm, Potteric Carr, Spurn Point and the Living Seas Centre at Flamborough. A focus on particular Living Landscapes sees a continuation of work in the Humberhead Levels, on the upland peatlands and along Yorkshire's main river valleys, albeit under changing funding regimes. Involving people in nature conservation is more difficult to maintain, as public sector grants have dried up forcing a greater commitment of unrestricted funds for our education activities at Gateway sites, trainee schemes and community engagement projects (in Hull for example).

Indeed, maintaining momentum is difficult and given financial reserves that are significantly in excess of the target, the Board has set a deficit budget composed of both a structural deficit reflecting YWT's desire to maintain momentum and a smaller deficit (ca. £0.1m) that simply relates to projects that have been moved into 2015-16 (in particular agricultural barn construction at Stirley Farm that has been delayed due to footpath problems).

As a result, YWT is able to maintain most but not all of the programme it runs. Centrally, YWT continues to develop its PR and branding work through the communications team, its public affairs work that is especially important given the General Election in 2015 and its biodiversity data function. In the north and east, YWT continues to manage its nature reserves, run the marine programme (including opening the Living Seas Extension), the nature tourism programme, the Peat Partnership, the Grazing Animals Project and work along the Ouse and Hull river valleys. The N&E team are also developing the Spurn Gateway, with the lighthouse opening for the first time as a visitor centre this year and will continue to develop its work in Hull. The south and west team continues to manage its nature reserves with a Living Landscape focus on the Humberhead Levels, the Magnesian Limestone ridge and the River Torne, Aire and Calder valleys. The S&W team will continue to develop both Potteric Carr and Stirley Community Farm as Gateway sites.

Supporting this frontline conservation effort are the Development and Central Services teams. The Development team will maintain a focus on developing YWT's membership – recruiting new members and breaking through the 40,000 membership milestone, retaining existing members and administering the scheme well. Additional funding is provided through our work on legacies, appeals, corporate sponsorship, major donors and donations. The Central Services team provides essential HR, IT, estate administration, resources and finance services so that YWT can efficiently run its business.

Report of the Board of Trustees - Strategic Report

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees manage risk through an annual review of the risks the charity may face and the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan, including, where appropriate, insurance and setting aside financial reserves.

The Trust's principal risks and uncertainties include the following;

- Securing funding for its charitable activities each year and managing working capital (see financial reserves policy section below)
- The availability of grant income and continued reduction in available public funding for environmental activities and training schemes
- The managing of 97 sites across Yorkshire and the potential impact of major disasters and adverse events at these sites (for example the storm surge experienced in December 2013 in East Yorkshire)
- Potential for overtrading with limited resource to deliver a large, diverse range of projects
- Potential delays, disputes and cost overruns associated with large scale capital projects
- A UK exit from European and the potential risk to the availability of wildlife related land management subsidies
- Weaker UK Government protection of wildlife in favour of commercial focussed large scale development projects such as HS2, HS3 and Local housing development plans

The trustees approve the Strategic Report contained within the Annual Report as required by The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013.

Report of the Board of Trustees

Financial Reserves Policy

The Trust's financial reserves policy is reviewed annually by the Trustees. This year, taking into account the increase in the Trust's size and subsequent working capital requirement, the target level of general unrestricted reserves was increased to £0.6m (2014: £0.5m).

At 31 March 2015, the Trust's total unrestricted funds (including fixed assets) increased by £0.5m to £2.73m, with general unrestricted reserves increasing by £0.45m, to £1.1m. The Trust therefore had free reserves of approximately £0.5m at 31 March 2015 largely thanks to the generous, and somewhat unexpected legacies left to the Trust during the year.

The Trust has subsequently identified various conservation and engagement projects across which it intends to invest during 2015 and 2016, which is reflected by the Trust setting a deficit budget for the year to 31 March 2016. Investments earmarked include strengthening the Trust's Conservation and Marine Planning and Policy teams to reinforce campaign voices for the environment and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ), enhancement of the Trust's reserves and Gateways, promotion of wildlife friendly farming practices and continuation of our work to restore Yorkshire's peatlands.

The general funds used to purchase fixed assets, net of the Trust's long term mortgage liability, are set aside as designated funds as these assets are not generally available for the day-to-day operations of the Trust. These comprise primarily nature reserves, which are held as part of the charitable objects of the Trust and cannot be readily sold and also Trust premises and equipment which are required for us to operate effectively.

Investment Policy

The Trust's Articles of Association enable it to invest monies not immediately needed for its purposes in such investments as may be deemed expedient, subject to such conditions as may be required by law. While trustees have delegated authority for the management of investments to a Finance and Risk Committee and to fund managers, they retain ultimate responsibility for all matters relating to and affecting the Trust's investments. The investment policy objectives are:

- Investment objectivity and integrity
- Preservation of real value of the Trust's monetary assets
- Optimisation of capital growth and income generated from the Trust's monetary assets, which is consistent with the Trust's charitable status and the consequent requirement for appropriate management of investment risk
- Flexibility and accessibility of invested funds

No investments are made which are contrary to the objects of the Trust.

Structure, Governance and Management

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The trustees serving during the year are listed at the beginning of this report. Dr Rob Stoneman was Chief Executive throughout the year.

Report of the Board of Trustees

Governing document

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, governed by its Articles of Association. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The Articles of Association were updated at the 2012 AGM.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees undergo induction to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Articles of Association, the committee and decision making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the Trust. They are also invited to meet key employees and other trustees. New trustees attend an induction day, led by the Chief Executive and Chair of the Board.

Organisation

The Board of trustees administers the charity and meets at least five times a year. The Finance and Risk Committee comprises a minimum of three trustees and up to two other members of the Trust who can be appointed by the Board, and meets at least four times a year. The Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity.

Supporters groups operate to encourage, coordinate and focus the active participation and contribution of volunteers to the Trust's projects and objectives at a local level. Supporters groups are a part of the Trust's volunteer structure, reporting through staff, and may be formed around a specific project, site or community, a group of sites or wider geographic area, according to the interests of the group members.

The Trust is an active member of The Wildlife Trusts. This is a national partnership organisation of 47 independent Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) which operates throughout the UK. All the Wildlife Trusts contribute an annual levy to fund RSWT to provide advocacy and representation at a national level.

Equality and Diversity

The Trust is committed to providing equal opportunities in employment and in all its activities and undertakings.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual 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 at the year end and of its incoming and expended resources during that year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

Report of the Board of Trustees

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate.

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 to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

Vanessa Schfield.

- · there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- 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 auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

By order of the Board

Vanessa Schofield

Chair

23 July 2015

Independent Auditors' Report

Independent auditors' report to the members of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for the year ended 31 March 2015

We have audited the financial statements of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for the year ended 31 March 2015 set out on pages 19 to 35. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the 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 company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 company and the company's members and trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the 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.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees' report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Independent Auditors' Report

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the Charity's state of affairs as at 31 March 2015 and of its incoming
 resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
 and
- 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.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- · the 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.

Alison Robinson (Senior Statutory Auditor)

24 July 2015

For and on behalf of Saffery Champness Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Mitre House, North Park Road, Harrogate, HG1 5RX

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

for the year ended 31 March 2015

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary income	4	1,954,564	76,555	2,031,119	1,367,686
People's Postcode Lottery		200,000	-	200,000	100,000
Fundraising events		15,669	1,279	16,948	27,637
Investment income	4	4,867	-	4,867	5,557
Incoming resources from generated funds		2,175,100	77,834	2,252,934	1,500,880
Income from charitable activities	5	1,262,300	2,354,619	3,616,919	4,217,943
Total incoming resources		3,437,400	2,432,453	5,869,853	5,718,823
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating funds:					
Cost of generating voluntary income					
Membership		489,244	14,122	503,366	438,032
Fundraising & legacies		120,418	6,442	126,860	140,324
Investment management costs		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	505
Total cost of generating funds	6	609,662	20,564	630,226	578,861
Charitable activities:					
Living Landscapes		1,557,786	1,550,653	3,108,439	3,568,699
Living Seas		20,325	195,578	215,903	200,143
Inspiring & involving people		517,603	221,118	738,721	930,759
Influencing	-	104,342	78,951	183,293	194,508
Total cost of charitable activities	6	2,200,056	2,046,300	4,246,356	4,894,109
Governance costs		19,701	213	19,914	19,816
Total resources expended	6	2,829,419	2,067,077	4,896,496	5,492,786
Net incoming resources before transfers		607,981	365,376	973,357	226,037
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds		(132,896)	132,896	-	-
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains		475,085	498,272	973,357	226,037
Other recognised gains/(losses)		44.000	07.242	402.244	20.000
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	11	14,902	87,312	102,214	28,930
Other gains/(losses)		12,817	-	12,817	5,775
Net movement in funds		502,804	585,584	1,088,388	260,742
Total funds brought forward		2,232,209	4,927,858	7,160,067	6,899,325
Total funds carried forward		2,735,013	5,513,442	8,248,455	7,160,067
Total fullus carried forward		2,735,013	5,513,442	8,248,455	7,160,0

All income resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities. The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. The profit / (loss) for Companies Act purposes comprises the net income for the year including net realised gains on investments was £703,656 (2014: (£153,464))

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 March 2015

		Unrestricted	Restricted		
		Funds	Funds	2015	2014
	Notes			£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10a	911,509	1,209,165	2,120,674	1,866,559
Heritage assets	10b	977,390	2,968,186	3,945,576	3,698,175
Investments	11	85,749	808,401	894,150	611,935
Total fixed assets		1,974,648	4,985,752	6,960,400	6,176,669
Current assets					
Stock	12	19,509	_	19,509	16,570
Asset held for resale	12	15,505	_	-	125,000
Debtors	13	322,305	1,081,470	1,403,775	2,574,192
Cash at bank and in hand		1,047,655	1,170,801	2,218,456	915,718
		1,389,469	2,252,271	3,641,740	3,631,480
Current Liabilities		_,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	_,,_	-,- ·-,· ··	2,002,000
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	344,191	1,724,581	2,068,772	2,322,666
Net current assets		1,045,278	527,690	1,572,968	1,308,814
Total assets less current liabilities		3,019,926	5,513,442	8,533,368	7,485,483
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	284,913	-	284,913	325,416
Net assets		2,735,013	5,513,442	8,248,455	7,160,067
The funds of the charity:					
General unrestricted funds		1,109,944	-	1,109,944	654,016
Restricted income funds		-	1,336,090	1,336,090	1,241,967
Fixed asset purchases fund		1,625,069	4,177,352	5,802,421	5,264,085
Total funds	19	2,735,013	5,513,442	8,248,455	7,160,067

 $The \ accompanying \ accounting \ policies \ and \ notes \ form \ an \ integral \ part \ of \ these \ financial \ statements.$

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 23 July 2015 and signed on their behalf by:

Vanessa Schofield

Chair

Andrew Mendus Hon. Treasurer

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2015

	Notes	2015 £	2014 £
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	20	1,893,881	623,952
Returns on investments and servicing of finance		(20)	467
Capital expenditure & financial investment	10, 11	(904,999)	(255,177)
Cash (outflow) / inflow before use of liquid resources and financing		988,862	369,241
Management of liquid resources for short term investments (Increase)/decrease in short-term deposits		478	7,283
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing Increase/(repayment) of bank loans & other loans		313,398	(192,708)
Increase/(decrease) in net cash in the year	20	1,302,738	183,816

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

1. Accounting Policies

a. Basis of accounts

- (i) These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.
- (ii) The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in 2005.

b. Funds held by the charity

(i) Restricted Income Funds

Restricted Income funds are those held where a use has been specified by the donor. These are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes.

(ii) Unrestricted Income Funds

Unrestricted Income funds are those held where there are no restrictions and which the Trustees are free to use, in accordance with the charitable objectives of the Trust.

c. Income and Expenditure

- (i) Membership subscriptions are accounted for on a cash received basis.
- (ii) Income from legacies is recognised when the entitlement to the legacy is known with certainty and the value of the legacy receipt can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- (iii) Grants income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which it relates. Where a grant is restricted by the funder for use in a future period, its recognition is deferred until the charity becomes entitled to the resource. Grants in respect of specific projects are credited to a restricted fund, against which relevant expenditure is charged.
- (iv) Contractual income is recognised in the incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities to the extent that the charity has provided the related goods and/or services. Where such income is received in advance then the income is deferred until the charity becomes entitled to the resource.
- (v) Investment income and gains and losses on disposals are allocated on the basis of whether the funds invested are for restricted use or for general unrestricted purposes.
- (vi) Income from all other Trust activities is accounted for when it is receivable.
- (vii) Resources used are accounted for on an accruals basis, inclusive of any irrecoverable VAT. Resources used are apportioned on the basis of whether the incoming resources were for restricted purposes or for general unrestricted purposes.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

(viii) Support costs, which include administration costs and the running and maintenance of the Trust's offices, and which are not directly attributable to any one specific activity, are apportioned and allocated to the other direct activities on the basis of full time equivalent staff levels attributable to that activity. Expenditure directly attributable to specific activities has been allocated directly to those activities. This allocation is consistent with previous years.

d. Tangible Fixed Assets

- (i) Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives as follows:
 - Plant and Equipment, including Fixtures and Fittings, together with Motor Vehicles are written off on a straight line basis over three years.
 - Freehold property is valued at cost less depreciation, which is applied on a straight line basis over 100 years.
 - Leasehold Improvements are valued at cost less depreciation, which is applied on a straight line basis over the duration of the lease.
- (ii) All tangible fixed assets costing over £1,000 are capitalised at cost and are depreciated at the rates as set out above.

e. Heritage Assets

(i) The Trust holds heritage assets in furtherance of the charitable objects of the Trust. These assets are nature reserves and cannot be readily sold and so in the normal operations of the Trust are not available for other use. The Trustees consider that owing to the incomparable nature of these reserves, conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient reliability and that, even if valuations could be obtained, the costs would be onerous compared with the additional benefits derived by the Trust and users of the accounts. The figures in the accounts represent the cost or valuation of the asset on acquisition where available, or where this is not available are included at the historic book cost.

f. Investments

(i) Quoted Investments held in the nature of fixed assets are stated at market value. Gains and losses on disposal and revaluation are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they arise.

g. Stock

(i) Stock is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for any obsolete items.

h. Operating Leases

(i) Property rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

i. Pension Costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of eligible employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Trust, being invested with insurance companies. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate. The company also has liabilities under a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. The defined benefit scheme was closed to new members in 2005. The currently agreed schedule of contributions, based on the last available actuarial valuation as at 1 April 2013, is provided for in full within creditors.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

2. Appeals

The Trust received donations for the following appeals (including gift aid) in the year:

	2015	2014
	£	£
Woodland appeal	5,327	-
Barn Owl	17,034	10,301
Waste to Wildlife	100	757
Brockadale	-	45,264
General appeals	-	561
Total	22,461	56,883

3. Legacies

The Trust received income in the year from legacies from the following benefactors who were kind enough to make bequests of over £1,000 in their wills:

2015	2014
£	£
500,000	-
280,000	-
40,000	-
25,000	-
8,113	90,000
5,000	-
5,000	-
3,200	-
1,439	11,000
1,000	-
635	133,146
869,387	234,146
	\$500,000 280,000 40,000 25,000 8,113 5,000 5,000 3,200 1,439 1,000 635

The value of legacies notified, but which have not yet been included within the above figures due to uncertainty as to value and the timing of receipt, is estimated at approximately £111,000 (2014: £6,000).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

4. ANALYSIS OF INCOME FROM GENERATED FUNDS

4. ANALISIS OF INCOME PROMISE TRANSPORTED FORDS					
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	2015	2014
	Note	£	£	£	£
Voluntary income					
Membership subscriptions		992,622	-	992,622	907,197
Legacies	3	869,387	-	869,387	234,146
Donations		70,094	76,555	146,649	169,461
Appeals	2	22,461	-	22,461	56,883
Total voluntary income		1,954,564	76,555	2,031,119	1,367,686
Activities for generating funds					
People's Postcode Lottery		200,000	-	200,000	100,000
Fundraising events		15,669	1,279	16,948	27,637
Total activities for generating funds		215,669	1,279	216,948	127,637
Investment income					
Fixed interest - UK		-	-	-	2,505
Bank interest - UK		4,867	-	4,867	3,052
Total investment income		4,867	-	4,867	5,557

5. ANALYSIS OF INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2015	Total 2014
Activity and funding source	£	£	£	£
Grants & subsidies	447,446	2,172,619	2,620,065	3,111,631
Contract & consultancy	461,706	-	461,706	867,836
S106 Agreements	10,000	182,000	192,000	11,000
Rents & other income	135,810	-	135,810	48,568
Admissions, education and events	50,514	-	50,514	54,050
Catering & other ancillary sales	156,824	-	156,824	124,858
Total income from charitable activities	1,262,300	2,354,619	3,616,919	4,217,943
Total incoming resources	3,437,400	2,432,453	5,869,853	5,718,823

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

6. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

O. ANALISIS OF TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED					
	Direct	Other	Support	Total	Total
	staff costs	Direct Costs	costs	2015	2014
			(Note 7)		
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of generating funds:					
Cost of raising voluntary income					
Membership	147,076	290,668	65,622	503,366	438,032
Fundraising & legacies	86,150	21,408	19,302	126,860	140,324
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	505
Total cost of generating funds	233,226	312,076	84,924	630,226	578,861
Cost of charitable activities:					
Living Landscapes	1,134,389	1,464,677	509,373	3,108,439	3,568,699
Living Seas	101,884	57,755	56,264	215,903	200,143
Inspiring & Involving People	448,223	107,834	182,664	738,721	930,759
Influencing	49,179	87,780	46,334	183,293	194,508
Total cost of charitable activities	1,733,675	1,718,046	794,635	4,246,356	4,894,109
Governance costs	6,689	12,235	990	19,914	19,816
Total resources expended	1,973,590	2,042,357	880,549	4,896,496	5,492,786

This is stated after charging:	2015	2014	
	£	£	
Operating lease rentals: Land & buildings	14,541	54,596	
Auditor's remuneration:			
Audit fees	10,305	7,463	
Other services	-	5,211	
Depreciation	235,820	160,610	
Trustees expenses	1,409	551	

⁵ Trustees were reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. No Trustees were remunerated for their services during the year.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

7. ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Membership	Fundraising	Living	Living Seas	Inspiring &	Influencing	Governance	Total	Total
		& legacies	Landscapes		involving people			2015	2014
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff Support	38,024	11,184	212,884	25,034	81,431	26,848	574	395,979	386,637
Communications & IT	6,317	1,858	35,364	4,159	13,527	4,460	95	65,780	79,283
Depreciation	3,712	1,092	162,757	15,503	50,079	2,621	56	235,820	160,610
Financial Costs	689	203	3,858	454	1,476	487	10	7,177	1,036
Printing & postage	1,463	430	8,192	963	3,133	1,034	22	15,237	23,406
Premises & vehicles	15,417	4,535	86,317	10,151	33,018	10,886	233	160,556	163,368
Total	65,622	19,302	509,373	56,264	182,664	46,334	990	880,549	814,340

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

8. EMPLOYEES

	2015	2014
Total staff costs	£	£
Wages & salaries	2,018,013	1,904,760
Social Security costs	177,163	167,383
Pension costs	135,008	106,629
Total staff costs	2,330,184	2,178,772

Staff costs excludes contribution to the Wildlife Trusts' Defined Benefit Scheme for former employees (see note 9).

Average number of employees (and full-time equivalent) analysed by activity for the year ended 31st March 2015	2015 Total	2015 FTE	2014 Total	2014 FTE
Living landscapes	40	37	40	37
Living seas	5	4	4	3
Inspiring and involving people	20	14	20	16
Influencing	7	5	5	3
Membership and fundraising	13	9	12	8
Support	12	10	13	10
Total staff	97	79	94	77

The number of employees whose emoluments (including taxable benefits in kind but excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000, was as follows:	2015 Number	2014 Number
£60,000 - £69,999	1	1
Total over £60,000	1	1

Payments made by the Trust during the year into the defined contribution pension scheme on behalf of the above member of staff amounted to £7,759 (2014: £6,952).

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

9. PENSION COSTS

The Trust operates two pension arrangements: a Standard Life Auto-enrolment defined contribution scheme, and the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme. The latter is described below.

The Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme (WTPS)

The WTPS is a multi-employer scheme with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust being one of 14 participating Wildlife Trusts. The Scheme's assets are held separately from those of the Trust. The WTPS has two categories of membership: defined benefit and defined contribution. The defined benefit or 'final salary' category closed to further accrual of benefits in October 2005, however, Trusts continue to make contributions to eliminate the scheme deficit.

WTPS Pension Scheme Deficit

A revaluation of the defined benefit scheme was undertaken in April 2013. The overall deficit was originally estimated by the Scheme's actuary at £5.9m, although has since been revised lower to £4.0m (April 2014). Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's proportion of the deficit less contributions made to 31 March 2015 totals £24,816 (2014: £28,242), for which the Trust has made provision in full within its accounts under the requirements of FRS12.

During the year to 31 March 2015 the Trust made contributions to the Scheme of £3,426 (2014: £3,160). The Trust agreed, from August 2014, to contribute £3,672 per annum towards the scheme's costs and elimination of the deficit. This contribution subsequently increases by 2.8% per annum. Payments are due monthly with £3,732 (2014: £3,475) due within less than a year and £21,084 (2014: £24,767) due after more than one year.

	2015	2014
WTPS Defined Benefit Scheme contribution commitments	£	£
Contributions payable within one year	3,732	3,475
Contributions payable after one year	21,084	24,767
Total pension contribution commitments	24,816	28,242

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

10a. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (excluding Heritage Assets)

	Freehold	Leasehold	Motor	Plant &	Total
	Property	Improvements	vehicles	equipment	
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					_
at 1 April 2014	1,793,134	-	293,906	788,719	2,875,758
Additions	89,148	127,973	36,402	236,412	489,935
Disposals	-	-	(35,047)	(67,805)	(102,852)
31 March 2015	1,882,282	127,973	295,261	957,326	3,262,842
Depreciation					
at 1 April 2014	110,221	-	221,331	677,647	1,009,199
Disposals	-	-	(35,047)	(67,805)	(102,852)
Impairment	-	-	-	-	
Charge for the year	18,823	4,266	45,735	166,996	235,820
31 March 2015	129,044	4,266	232,020	776,838	1,142,167
Net book value					
31 March 2014	1,682,913	-	72,574	111,072	1,866,559
31 March 2015	1,753,238	123,708	63,241	180,488	2,120,674

The Trust's York Office is subject to a Legal Charge in favour of Barclays Bank Plc dated October 2005.

In February 2014, the Trust granted a legal charge to the Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund over certain of its land and buildings located at Spurn Point. As at 31 March 2015, the Trust had no liability to the chargee.

10b. HERITAGE ASSETS

			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
			Funds	Funds	
Cost or valuation			£	£	£
at 1 April 2014			977,390	2,720,785	3,698,175
Additions			-	247,401	247,401
Disposals			_	-	-
at 31 March 2015			977,390	2,968,186	3,945,576
	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Five year summary of heritage asset transactions	£	£	£	£	£010 11
Additions:					
Purchases	247,401	25,000	5,000	480,404	404,739
Donations	-	-	25,000	-	-
At 31 March 2015	247,401	25,000	30,000	480,404	404,739

In August 2014, the Trust acquired an area of land at Copper Hall Farm Skerne, nr Driffield. Consideration of £0.247m, including all costs of acquisition, is included in Heritage assets.

In November 2014, the Trust acquired an area of land adjacent to North Cave Wetlands Nature Reserve, East Yorkshire under the terms of a Section 106 Agreement dated 19 October 2005 with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Humberside Aggregates and Excavations Ltd. Under the terms of the S106 agreement, the land is to be used as a nature reserve and therefore holds no commercial value. The land is therefore held on the Trust's balance sheet as a heritage asset at nil value.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

11. INVESTMENTS

	2015	2014
Listed investments	£	£
Market value at 1 April 2014	611,457	572,612
Additions	180,479	98,347
Disposals	-	(88,432)
Net gain/(loss) on investments	102,214	28,930
Market value at 31 March 2015	894,150	611,457
Cash held for reinvestment	-	478
Accrued interest on investments	-	-
Total	894,150	611,935
Historical cost of investments at 31 March	637,061	456,582
Analysis of investments by type	2015 %	2014 %
COIF Charities Investment Fund	100%	100%
At 31 March the geographic allocation of investments was as follows:	2015	2014
Cooperation Analysis of investments		_
Geographic Analysis of investments	%	%
UK	100%	100%
Total	100%	100%

The above investments were all held with a UK registered fund, that includes overseas holdings.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

12. STOCK	UNR	RES	2015	2014
	£	£	£	£014
Goods held for resale	19,509	-	19,509	16,570
Total	19,509	-	19,509	16,570
13. DEBTORS				
	UNR	RES	2015	2014
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	202,797	_	202,797	509,530
Taxation receivable	74,975	5,000	79,975	34,707
Accrued income	36,314	619,194	655,508	1,066,263
Prepayments	8,219	-	8,219	72,644
Other debtors	-	457,276	457,276	891,047
Total	322,305	1,081,470	1,403,775	2,574,192
14. CREDITORS	UNR	RES	2015	2014
Amounts falling due within one year	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	163,039	276,404	439,443	945,889
Taxation and social security	63,573	-	63,573	77,418
Other creditors	8,458	437,607	446,065	326,339
Mortgage	24,799	-	24,799	24,582
Other loans (unsecured)	12,000	950,000	962,000	612,000
Accruals	62,921	60,570	123,491	228,535
Deferred income	9,401	-	9,401	107,904
Total	344,191	1,724,581	2,068,772	2,322,666
Amounts falling due after more than one year	UNR £	RES £	2015 £	2014 £
Amounts failing due after more than one year			-	
Mortgage	263,829	-	263,829	288,649
Other loan (unsecured)	-	-	-	12,000
WT Pension provision (see note 9)	21,084	-	21,084	24,767

Included in creditors amounts falling due after more than one year is an amount of £159,548 (2014 £184,025), which is due after five years. This relates to a mortgage which is secured on the Trust's freehold property.

284,913

284,913

325,416

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

15. ANNUAL OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

	2015		2014		
	Land &	Land &	Land & Land &	Land &	
	buildings	Other	buildings	Other	
Annual operating lease commitments in respect of leases expiring:	£	£	£	£	
Within one year	5,381		3,250	-	
Between one and five years	6,660		49,074	-	
After five years	2,500		2,272	-	
Total	14,541	-	54,596	-	

16. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Chief Executive, Dr Robert Stoneman, is a Trustee of the Peter de Haan Charitable Trust. Dr Stoneman declares a conflict of interest at any meetings in relation to grants to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and takes no part in decisions relating to such grants. During the year ended 31 March 2015 the Trust did not receive income from Peter de Hann Charitable Trust (2014: £71,000).

Dr Stoneman is also a Trustee of the Postcode Care Trust, the Postcode Children Trust and the Humber Nature Partnership. Neither Dr Stoneman or the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust receive any financial benefit from these organisations.

Jonathan Leadley, Yorkshire Wildlife's Director of Development, is a Trustee of the Postcode Animal Trust. Neither Mr Leadley or the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust receive any financial benefit from the Postcode Animal Trust.

17. INDEMNITY INSURANCE

During the year the Trust purchased Charities Trustees Indemnity Insurance in respect of all the Trustees. The cost of this insurance was £570 (2014: £1,155).

18. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

18a. COMMITMENTS UNDER AGENCY AGREEMENTS

During the year, the Trust entered into agreements with a number of Yorkshire landowners to act as their agent for peat restoration contracts on their land and for claiming Higher Level Stewardship grants from Natural England on their behalf. The total value of the contract work within the year ended 31st March 2015 was £0.74m (2014 £2.27m). Neither the grant income receivable from Natural England, nor the payments to the contractors for the peat restoration works are included in the Statement of Financial Activities, because the incoming resources do not belong to the Trust and the Trust has no responsibility for their ultimate application, being legally bound to apply the funds to the peat restoration works as agent for the landowners.

At 31st March 2015, included within Other debtors is income receivable as agent for peat restoration works completed of £0.46m (2014: £0.89m). Other creditors include £0.44m (2014 £0.31m) for work completed but not yet paid.

As the grants are paid in arrears based on evidence of payments made, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority advanced an unsecured, interest free loan (maximum £450,000) to the Trust as working capital for the period between the payment being made to the contractor and the grant being received from Natural England. This loan was fully repaid to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority before the end of April 2015. In addition, a loan of £500,000 was provided on similar terms by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts. It was fully repaid by 1 June 2015.

18b. CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS FOR CAPITAL ITEMS

During the year, the Trust entered into contractual arrangements for the extension of the Trust's Living Seas Centre, Flamborough and the restoration of the Matthews' Lighthouse at Spurn Point National Nature Reserve. At 31 March 2015, the Trust's capital commitments were as follows;

	2015	2014
	£	£
Living Seas Centre Extension, Flamborough	30,488	-
Matthews' Lighthouse Restoration Spurn NNR	253,038	-
Total	283,526	-

The Living Seas Centre Extension, Flamborough is funded by a grant received from the Marine Management Organisation and Holderness Coast Flag. The Matthews' Lighthouse Restoration is funded by grants from The Heritage Lottery Fund and The Coastal Communities Fund.

19. Analysis of Net Accumulated Funds

19. Analysis of Net Accumulated Funds							
	Balance 1 April	Incoming	Expended Expended	Gains &	Transfers	Transfer to	Balance 31 March
	2014	resources	in year	Losses	in year	Asset purchase	2015
LINDSCEPICE SUNDS	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS General unrestricted funds	654,016	3,437,400	(2,780,680)	27,719	(132,896)	(95,614)	1,109,944
Unrestricted fixed assets fund	1,578,193	-	(48,739)	-	-	95,614	1,625,069
Total Unrestricted Funds	2,232,209	3,437,400	(2,829,419)	27,719	(132,896)	-	2,735,013
RESTRICTED FUNDS							
Long Term Funds							
Dealtry legacy	166,463	-	(12,616)	20,205	616	-	174,668
Crackles legacy	61,086	-	(2,805)	-	-	(7,401)	50,880
Mountain fund	60,037	-	(60,037)	-	-	-	-
North Cave long term fund	386,626 674,213	220,000 220,000	(40,000) (115,458)	67,107 87,312	616	(7,401)	633,733 859,281
Project Funds	074,213	220,000	(113,430)	07,312	010	(7,401)	033,201
Outer Humber Project WREN	-	43,410	(40,253)	-	2,243	(5,400)	-
Outer Humber Project Extension WREN	-	28,482	(21,471)	-	1,990	(9,000)	-
River Hull EA	7,000	100,000	(40,639)	-	-	(4,026)	62,335
River Hull Catch mont Postmorchin FA	2.650	144,150	(78,479)	-	-	(25,858)	39,814
River Hull Catchment Partnership EA Appleton Grasslands - SITA	2,650	18,646 30,940	(17,762) (20,205)	-	3,860	(14,595)	3,534
Wheldrake Access Biffa	=	20,400	(10,998)	=	1,098	(10,500)	-
Bolton on Swale Cemex	-	14,853	-	-	-	-	14,853
Nidderdale AONB Harrogate BC	-	10,589	(10,707)	-	119	-	-
Moorlands Yorventure	-	2,573	(2,573)	-	-	-	=
Dig In Big Lottery & YCC	22,727	51,442	(71,603)	=	-	(2,566)	=
Skerne Copper Hall Land Acquisition WREN BAF Stirley Farm Garfield Weston	254,136 43,019	(15,000) -	(31,762)	-	864	(240,000) (11,257)	- -
Stirley Farm Santander	5,000	_	(3,727)	_	_	(1,273)	_
Stirley Farmhouse Shears	5,361	-	(3,411)	-	-	(1,950)	-
Stirley Cre8 Barn Veolia	-	47,933	17,486	-	5,296	(70,715)	-
River Tutt EA	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-	-	-
Yorkshire Peat Partnership	26,133	284,000	(310,133)	=	-	=	- 4 255
IUCN-UK National peatland project Natural Retreats S106	64,081 12,000	3,300 2,000	(66,026)	-	-	-	1,355 14,000
North Cave Wetlands WREN	-	45,123	(8,152)	_	1,463	(38,434)	14,000
North Cave Wetlands Current	1,718	30,000	(32,727)	-	1,770	-	761
North Cave Wetlands WildBird Café	-	1,250	=	-	-	-	1,250
North Cave Wetlands NIA	=	11,619	(11,619)	=	-	=	=
Red Kite Project	1,097	3,750	(2,954)	-	-	- (2.400)	1,892
Humberhead Levels NIA Potteric Carr NIA	-	190,994 27,829	(183,594) (27,947)	-	- 118	(2,400)	5,000
Dearne Valley NIA	- -	28,575	(22,277)	_	-	- -	6,299
Spurn Visitor Access E.ON	=	85,000	(66,292)	=	=	=	18,708
Spurn Coastal Communities - revenue	=	68,110	(40,417)	-	-	=	27,693
Spurn Coastal Communities - capital	=	54,071	(1,265)	=	613	(16,664)	36,756
Spurn Communities along the sands HLF	-	95,536	(38,999)	-	221	(56,758)	-
Spurn VAT Restricted fund HLF	=	12,839	- (0.054)	-	-	- (10.650)	12,839
Potteric Carr Discovery Zone Veolia Potteric - Carr Lodge Land Trust	-	25,420 59,325	(9,054) (50,479)	_	-	(10,650) (4,367)	5,715 4,480
Potteric - Carr Lodge WREN	=	28,063	(28,063)	=	-	-	-,400
Potteric Corronation Meadows BIFFA	-	11,846	(11,846)	-	-	-	-
Threshfield Quarry - LEP	-	37,500	(3,662)	-	-	-	33,838
Blooming Meadows SITA	-	11,154	(9,332)	-	378	(2,200)	-
Broadhead Clough	1,500 1,077	11,061 -	(83) (105)	-	-	-	12,478 972
HSG Grant Engage Mutual Leeds CC Partnership	1,077	12,221	(23,558)	-	11,337	-	-
Upper Aire - SITA	-	11,357	(11,357)	-	-	-	-
River Aire Crayfish EA	-	37,500	(16,092)	-	-	-	21,408
West Yorkshire Rivers EA	10,941	38,000	(41,109)	-	-	-	7,832
Calder INNS Project EA, DEFRA, Calder Colne RT	14,333	76,500	(49,798)	-	1	-	41,036
River Torne EA	2,617	26,823	(29,440)	=	-	=	=
Magnesian Limestone - BIFFA & SITA Living Seas Programme	-	27,499 61,541	(32,499) (84,377)	-	5,000 22,836	-	-
Living Seas Centre Extension - EFF, B Sunley CT	- -	104,084	(14,873)	-	44,674	(133,885)	-
Marine Fisheries - Esmee	-	22,839	(13,484)	-	-	-	9,355
Marine Advocacy - Esmee & various	26,894	45,620	(56,340)	-	7,150	-	23,325
Major Donors HLF	2,288	-	(2,288)	-	-	-	-
HLS capital & other restricted project funds	63,182	101,688	(108,194)	-	21,249	(8,644)	69,282
Restricted Long Term & Project Funds	1,241,967	2,432,453	(1,879,996)	87,312	132,896	(678,541)	1,336,090
Restricted Fixed Assets	3,685,891	<u> </u>	(187,081)	-	-	678,541	4,177,352
Total Restricted Funds	4,927,858	2,432,453	(2,067,077)	87,312	132,896	÷.	5,513,442
Total Funds	7,160,067	5,869,853	(4,896,496)	115,031	-	-	8,248,455

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31 March 2015

19. Analysis of Net Accumulated Funds (cont'd)

The general unrestricted funds represents the available unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees are free to use, in accordance with the charitable objectives of the Trust.

The fixed assets fund represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets, net of the long term mortgage liability. The allocation of tangible fixed assets is carried out on the basis of whether the funds used for the acquisition were from restricted funds or from unrestricted funds.

The Dealtry legacy is a legacy received during the year ended 31 March 2001 to be used for the purchase and development of freshwater nature reserves within North & East Yorkshire.

The Crackles legacy is a legacy received during the year ended 31 March 2008 to be used for the purchase of land in the East Riding of Yorkshire for conservation purposes.

The Mountain fund comprises distributions from the Joyce Mary Mountain Will Trust received during the year ended 31 March 2008 to be used for projects in the Yorkshire Dales area.

The North Cave long term fund comprises donations for the long term development of the North Cave reserve. During the year, the fund benefited from Humberside Aggregates contribution towards the fund and a donation from Stephen Martin, a generous supporter and Patron of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

During the year to 31 March 2015, the Trust received restricted funds with incoming resources in excess of £0.1m as follows:

- Yorkshire Peat Partnership Natural England, The Environment Agency, the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the North York Moors National Park Authority combined funding enabling the Trust to undertake an extensive programme of peat land restoration work;
- River Hull Chalk Stream Crystal Clear Project Combined funding from Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN) and the Environment Agency to deliver chalk stream and wetland habitat restoration along the River Hull;
- Living Seas Centre Extension European Fisheries Fund, Marine Management Organisation and Bernard Sunley Charitable Trust. Combined funding and support to enable the construction of an education room at the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Living Seas Centre, Flamborough;
- Humberhead Levels Nature Improvement Area Natural England grant scheme to create and promote wetland landscapes, supporting wildlife, in the Humberhead Levels.

Other restricted funds are grants for a range of projects, of which the largest are displayed separately.

						-
for	the	year	ended	31 N	March	2015

20. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT				
	Note		2015 £	2014 £
(a) Net cash inflow from operating activities	Note			
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains/(losses)			973,357	231,812
Adjustment for items shown separately:				
Investment income			-	(2,505)
Interest costs			4,887	5,281
Investment income already included in cash Adjustment for items not involving movement of cash:			(4,866)	(5,681)
Depreciation	10a		235,820	160,610
(Gain)/Loss on asset Disposal			-	(5,775)
Donated Heritage Assets			-	-
Donated Investment Asset			-	(45,000)
(increase)/decrease in liquid resources			-	(7,283)
Changes in working capital: (Increase) / decrease in stock			(2,939)	2 200
(Increase) / decrease in asset held for resale			125,000	3,388
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	13		1,170,417	(434,327)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	14		(607,795)	723,432
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities			1,893,881	623,952
(b) Return on investment & servicing of finance			£	£
Investment income received		-	4,867	5,557
Reduction in accrued investment income			-	191
Interest paid			(4,887)	(5,281)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from return on investment & servicing of finance			(20)	467
(c) Capital expenditure & financial investment		<u>-</u>	£	£
Purchase of fixed & heritage assets			(737,336)	(260,952)
Purchase of investments			(180,479)	(88,432)
Sale proceeds of disposal of assets Sale proceeds of investments			12,817	5,775 88,432
Net cash inflow/(outflow) for capital expenditure & financial investment			(904,999)	(255,177)
recession, country, or capital experiance a manifestiment			(304,333)	(233,177)
(d) Financing				
Debt due within one year: Increase in short term borrowing			350,000	(156,500)
Repayment of secured loan (mortgage)			217	397
Debt due beyond one year:				
Repayment of secured loan (mortgage)			(24,819)	(24,605)
Repayment of unsecured loan			(12,000)	(12,000)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing			313,398	(192,708)
(e) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds/debt			2015	2014
			£	£
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year			1,302,738	183,816
Cash (outflow) /inflow from change in liquid resources			(478)	(7,283)
Cash inflow / (outflow) from increase / (Decrease) in debt			(313,398)	192,708
Change in net funds			988,862	369,241
Net funds balance brought forward			(21,035)	(390,276)
Net funds balance carried forward			967,827	(21,035)
(0.4.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.				
(f) Analysis of change in net funds / (debt)		1 April 2014	Cash Flow	31 March 2015
	Note	2014 £	Flow £	2015 £
Cash at bank and in hand		915,718	1,302,738	2,218,456
Liquid resources		478	(478)	-
Debt due within one year	14	(636,582)	(350,217)	(986,799)
Debt due after one year	14	(300,649)	36,819	(263,829)
Net funds / (debt)		(21,035)	988,862	967,827

Vote of Thanks

for the year ended 31 March 2015

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust would like to thank all its partners, supporters and other major donors for their help with its work, many of whom are listed below.

We would like to give particular thanks to players of **People's Postcode Lottery** for the £200,000 we have received this year. Players of People's Postcode Lottery have consistently supported us over the past six years, providing a significant level of funding for the Trust's work.

AESSEAL PLC

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Biffa Award
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Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

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Don Catchment Partnership Don Catchment Rivers Trust

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Hawthorne House Mr & Mrs Johnson

Heritage Lottery Fund

Holderness Fisheries Local Action Group

Howardian Hills AONB

Humberhead Levels NIA Partnership Humberside Aggregates Limited

HSBC

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John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust
Lafarge Landfill Communities Fund

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LEADER Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways

Ledston Parish Council Leeds Beckett University Leeds City Council

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Marine Management Organisation Marine Protected Areas Fighting Fund Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust

Marjorie Viggars Trust Morgan Sindall Group Plc

Natural England Nidderdale AONB Norfolk Wildlife Trust North Lincolnshire Council

North York Moors National Park Authority

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

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Peter and Sheila Gosden Charitable Trust

Peter De Haan Charitable Trust

Puffin Mark members R B Verity Charitable Trust

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Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

Selby District Council
Sheffield City Council

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust Shire Group of Drainage Boards

SITA Trust

Smeaton Magazine

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust

Stephen Martin Suffolk Wildlife Trust

The Banister Charitable Trust

The Catherine Muriel Rob Natural History Society
The C Paul Thackray General Charitable Trust

The Co-operative

Vote of Thanks (cont'd)

for the year ended 31 March 2015

The Coulthurst Trust

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Foundation

The Emily Weircroft Charitable Trust

The Hamamelis Trust

The Mollie Croysdale Charitable Trust

The Pauline Meridith Trust

The Players of the People's Postcode Lottery

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Welcome to Yorkshire

Wharfedale Naturalists Society

Yorkshire Coast Nature

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust

Yorkshire Naturalists Union

Yorkshire Water

Yorventure

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust would also like to thank all its members and volunteers for their continued support during the year

Corporate Members

for the year ended 31 March 2015

CORPORATE BENEFACTOR

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