

Dorset Wildlife Trust's results for 2017-18 are shown in Chart 1 and show a deficit of £131,000 on unrestricted funds for the year. Part of this deficit relates to unrealised investment losses of £37,000 which are not included within the budget and a further £86,000 relates to the drawdown from designated funds. Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been previously set aside for specific planned projects. The deficit of £185,000 on restricted funds reflects the expenditure of funds received in prior years for specific projects and do not indicate an overspend. The deficit of £26,000 on the Endowment Fund is due to unrealised investment losses during the year.

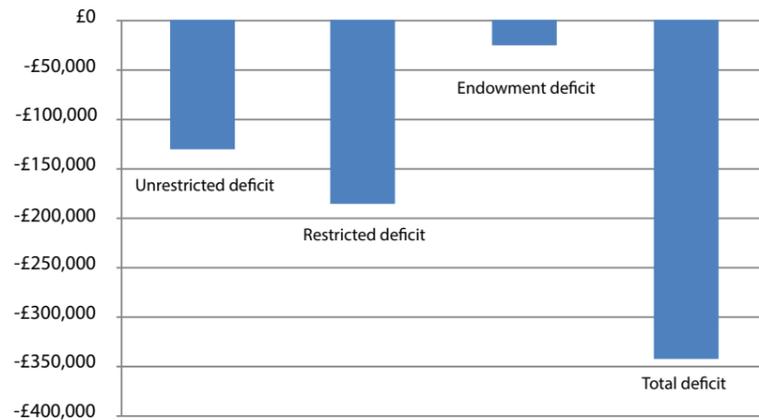
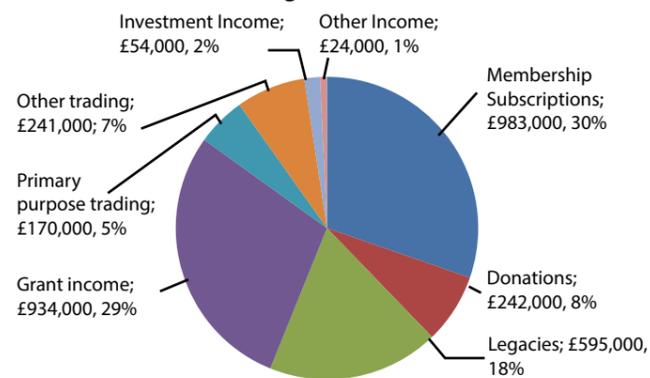


Chart 1 - Year End Result 2017 - 2018

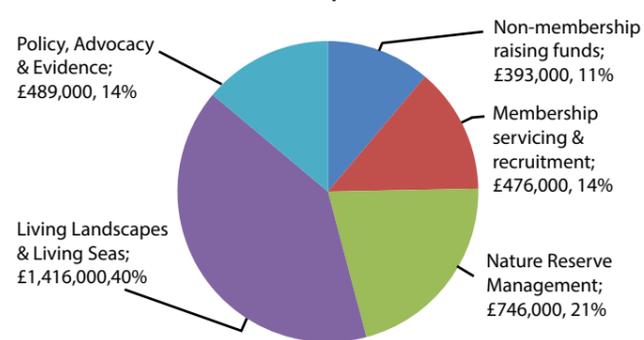
The Income and Expenditure for Dorset Wildlife Trust for the year ended 31 March 2018 are set out in Charts 2 and 3. The information is taken from the audited consolidated accounts of Dorset Wildlife Trust which were prepared under the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102).

Chart 2 - Incoming Resources 2017 - 2018



Total Incoming Resources for the year were approximately £3.24 million (2017: £3.3 million). The largest portion (30%) of this income is membership subscription income which includes related gift aid and is all unrestricted. This income stream has grown by 5% over the year. Grant income which is all restricted represents 29% of income and includes income from Agri-Environmental schemes for conservation work on our nature reserves as well as grants funding conservation work; such grants include the Heritage Lottery funding for The Great Heath and South West Wild Futures projects, Coastal Communities Funding for the refurbishment of the Fine Foundation Wild Seas Centre at Kimmeridge and the Portland Quarries Nature Park project. Legacy income of £595,000 is all unrestricted except for £35,000 which is restricted for land purchase.

Chart 3 - Resources Expended 2017 - 2018



Total resources expended in the year amounted to £3.5 million, of which 75% (2017: 79%) was expended on DWT's direct charitable objects. In line with the new Strategic Plan for 2017-20 the conservation work has been strategically refocused into (1) Policy, Advocacy and Evidence, (2) Living Landscapes & Living Seas, and (3) Nature Reserve Management. Expenditure incurred on raising funds including membership servicing and recruitment and trading activities represented 25% (2017: 21%) of the total expended.

Chart 4 - Analysis of Net Assets

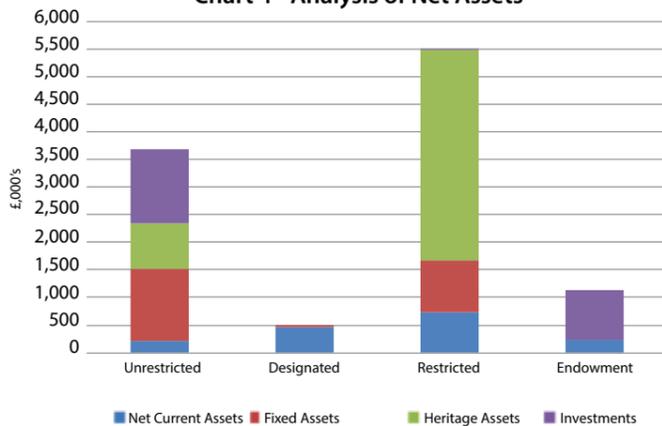


Chart 4 shows the types of assets that constitute the £10.8 million net assets of DWT and also how those assets are distributed between Unrestricted, Designated, Restricted and Endowment Funds. The largest fund with net assets of £5.5 million is the Restricted Fund which can only be used for specific purposes. Approximately two thirds of the Restricted Fund (£3.8 million) represents Heritage Assets; these are our nature reserves. A further £936,000 of the Restricted Fund is represented by Fixed Assets such as buildings and equipment funded by restricted donations and grants. Endowment Funds of £1.14 million consist of capital which cannot be expended on revenue costs but the income earned on that capital each year can be spent. Unrestricted funds, which are of a more general nature, amounted to £4.18 million of which £495,000 has been designated for future projects. Approximately £1.3 million of these Unrestricted Funds relates to Tangible Fixed Assets such as office buildings and other items of a capital nature which enable DWT to function. A further £817,000 represents Heritage Assets. The remainder of the assets are held in the form of investments and working capital ie bank balances and monies due to DWT, less monies owed by DWT to its creditors. The level of free reserves held by the charity at the balance sheet date is £1.31 million representing 6.5 months of core annual costs. This is within DWT's Financial Reserves policy which trustees have agreed that free reserves should not normally fall below six months of total annual unrestricted costs.

Annual Review 2017/18

Dorset Wildlife Trust Chairman's Report

Having been a Trustee for many years I was delighted to take over the Chair of Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) in the New Year and am thoroughly enjoying my new role. It is a joy to work with my fellow Trustees who have a wide range of excellent skills, and our dedicated and hardworking staff.

We are so lucky to have an army of volunteers to work with our staff on many aspects of our work. Over the last year they have cleared and replaced huge lengths of fence line to contain our grazing animals, so essential to our habitats, at one end of the county and repainted Brownsea Villa at the other.

The Living Landscapes and Living Seas approaches long advocated by the Wildlife Trusts are starting to take shape helped by an increasing understanding of their benefits

and support from government. DWT has considerable experience in catchment-scale initiatives which, when combined with rewilding and nutrient reduction initiatives, gives some exciting opportunities for large area conservation and building the county's natural capital. This is something I am particularly interested in.

At sea after many years we are now receiving recognition from fishermen's groups and marine authorities for our sensible, balanced approach to help restore our degraded marine environment – working with the fishing industry and providing data for the designation and management of Marine Conservation Zones.

Our Centres continue to attract increasing numbers including a wide range of disabled, disadvantaged and young people. Our Chesil Centre had 66,000 visitors in 2017 and we have some exciting plans for our Brownsea reserve next year.

Investment in our advocacy work in engaging partners and lobbying decision-makers is paying off, as is investment in staff to

cover development planning issues. It is so important to input the environmental considerations.

If you have time please read the Director's Report in our Annual Financial Statements. It is packed with detail of the huge amount of work being done and on behalf of the Trustees I thank our staff, volunteers, members and supporters for their tremendous, hard work and commitment over the year.

Jo Davies MBE
Chair – Dorset Wildlife Trust

Front cover photo: View westwards across Chapman's Pool © Emma Rance

Just a few examples of the work we do thanks to you, our members and supporters...

Maintaining, enhancing, restoring and reconnecting habitats

Across our nature reserves, and other important wildlife sites, our teams of wardens and volunteers have been clearing scrub, replacing several km of fencing, and coppicing, amongst many other vital management jobs.

On Brownsea Island, 3.5 ha of rhododendron and 1 ha of bracken were removed along the North Shore. A new electric pump for the Brownsea Lagoon was also installed to maintain optimum water levels for the nesting birds. At Kingcombe Meadows, in addition to managing the meadows, ditches and ponds were restored especially for the benefit of great crested newts.

16 ladybird spiders were translocated to a new site, one of 3 populations on DWT reserves.



Ladybird spider

Clearing bracken on Brownsea Island

Recording and monitoring wildlife

Approximately 200 people, including 120 volunteers and others contributed 8,200 wildlife records, covering 1,680 species across 41 of DWT's reserves. These records are so important as they enable us to monitor the effectiveness of our work and the status of the habitats and species.

Bat surveys on Brownsea Island showed that 10 species were recorded in 2017 with at least 6 being resident. 10 bat species regularly use the habitats around Lorton Meadows in west Dorset.

In 2017 60 scuba-diving Seasearch volunteers gathered supporting evidence for new Marine Conservation Zone designations. 35 volunteer seal spotters were recruited and trained for the Dorset Seal project.



Natterer's bat colony



Grey seal pup

Wild Seas Centre

We also celebrated the opening of the newly refurbished Fine Foundation Wild Seas Centre, at Kimmeridge Bay, thanks to a generous donation by the Coastal Communities Fund, part of Dorset Coastal Connections.



Fine Foundation Wild Seas Centre



Raising awareness

By the end of the year DWT had more than 28,000 followers on Twitter and 15,000 on Facebook, the second highest amongst all 46 Wildlife Trusts.

Wildlife Matters, DWT's monthly e-news bulletin was circulated to 6,800 members and 4,500 non-members each month.

The Fine Foundation Chesil Beach Centre had a record-breaking summer season in 2017 with over 10,000 visitors recorded during August alone and around 66,000 visitors for the year. The Kingcombe Centre had a busy year with over 30 independent groups and 41 DWT day and residential courses. A record 37 school groups visited Lorton Meadows with a total of 1,181 participants.



Busy summer at the Fine Foundation Chesil Centre

Sustainable living

A new biomass heating system was installed at Kingcombe Meadows Farm. It is fired by wood sourced from Kingcombe Meadows and Powerstock Common nature reserves.

DWT is working with the Dorset Chamber of Commerce & Industry (over 400 companies) to establish a 'Plastics free by 23' campaign and a Dorset Environment Business Award in partnership with Poole Harbour Commissioners at the DCCI Annual Business Awards.



Biomass boiler installed at Kingcombe Meadows farm

Influencing land and sea management

DWT has commented on many terrestrial and marine planning applications and consultations, including the proposed oil exploration in Poole Bay, which we have strongly objected to on pollution grounds.

DWT has been advocating the use of 'rewilding' as a method for Living Landscape restoration to catchment partnerships, amongst others – very topical with recent proposals for change in the farming industry. Also, DWT has been engaging in forward-thinking approaches to future river catchment management including the potential introduction of beavers to Dorset.

DWT staff gave face-to-face advice to 78 site owners/managers, covering nearly 1,100 hectares of land and 83 sites.

DWT has been involved in discussions around three potential 'farm facilitation fund' projects. One of these, around the Brit and Hooke rivers, has recently been launched.



Volunteering

We've seen some amazing achievements from our volunteers with 2,919 volunteer days contributed this year on our nature reserves and in our visitor centres. We have a total of 3,386 registered volunteers. There were also 117 publicly advertised practical work parties for volunteers, with 1,458 volunteer days.

DWT led the development of a new HLF funded trainee programme which also involved Avon, Devon, Somerset and Wiltshire Wildlife Trusts.



2017 Wildlife Skills trainees from 4 counties

Members & Supporters



At the end of March 2018 DWT had 13,758 household memberships, equivalent to 27,410 individual members. At the time this was DWT's highest membership ever.



28,000 Twitter followers



15,000 Facebook followers

27,410 DWT members

40 Corporate Members

2,919 volunteer days contributed

8,200 wildlife records submitted



1,800 Instagram followers

Corporate members

- Anglebury Press Limited
- Battens Solicitors
- Bournemouth Water/South West water *
- Castle Cameras
- Classic Cottages
- Conker Spirit
- Create Gift Love
- Domvs*
- Dorset Golf Resort*
- Eco Sustainable Solutions
- Evergreen Insurance
- From you To Me
- Goulds (Dorchester)
- Greenwood Grange
- Harbour View Woodland Burial Ground
- Hoburne*
- Holmes For Gardens
- Humphries Kirk
- Imerys
- J.P. Morgan
- Jurassic Coast Activities
- Kingston Maurward College
- Knoll House Hotel
- Moore International
- Neal's Yard Remedies*
- NFU Mutual
- Perenco*
- Plankbridge Ltd
- Poole Harbour Commissioners
- Preston Redman
- Rockley Park*
- Siemens*
- SKC Ltd
- Southern Cooperative*
- Stewarts Garden Centres
- Symonds and Sampson
- The Gardens Group
- Vitacress Salads
- Wessex Grounds Services
- Wessex Water*

*Wildlife Partner

Corporate and organisational donations and sponsorship

- Care South
- Castle Cameras
- Conker Spirit
- Dorset Tea (Keith Spicer)
- From you To Me
- Gaia
- Greenwood Grange
- John Lewis
- JP Morgan
- Moore International
- Nationwide
- Riverford Organic Farmers
- Southern Cooperative
- Stewarts Garden Centres
- Waitrose

Volunteering and in-kind support

- Barclays Bank PLC
- Battens Solicitors
- Bournemouth Beaches
- Castle cameras
- Common Ground
- Dorset Countryside Volunteers
- Hoburne
- Hooke Park School of Architecture
- J.P. Morgan
- Jewson
- Neal's Yard Remedies
- Riverford Organic Farmers
- Rockley Park
- Siemens
- Taste Café
- West Dorset District Council Volunteers
- Woodland Trust

Grants

- Borough of Poole
- Bournemouth Borough Council
- Coastal Communities Fund
- Defra
- Dorset AONB
- Dorset County Council
- Edgar Lee Foundation
- Environment Agency
- Fine Family Foundation
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Natural England
- RSPB
- Sea-changers
- South West Environment Network

