

Annual Review 2022/2023

When we look back over the past year and reflect on what has been achieved it is clear that we need to start with a big THANK YOU to all our staff, volunteers, members and other supporters. Together, everyone has helped enable us to achieve an enormous amount for wildlife, our local habitats and people.

From new nature reserves to first records, from restored habitats to newly created ones and from new associations with communities to a growing number of volunteers, this is a selection of highlights, headlines and milestones reached during the course of the 2022/2023 financial year.

Wildlife Highlights

Wild places across Hertfordshire and Middlesex have provided a year of wondrous wildlife sightings and recordings.



Feathered friends



- Throughout the winter, Jack Snipe were seen regularly at Lemsford Springs and rare ducks, Pintail and Goldeneye, were spotted at Amwell.
- Great White Egret were seen at Tring Reservoirs and there was the first record of a Cattle Egret for Hilfield Park Reservoir.
- Over 500 Golden Plovers made a showing at Tring.

Intriguing Invertebrates



- Good populations of Dingy Skipper butterflies were sighted at Waterford Heath and Aldbury Nowers, plus Chalkhill Blue butterfly numbers increased at Hexton.
- Nationally scarce bee, *Nomada flavopicta* was recorded at Aldbury Nowers and the Short-winged Conehead bush cricket was found for the first time at Thorley Wash.
- Emerald Dragonfly and Common Darters benefitted from the new ponds at Hilfield Park Reservoir, whilst Lesser Emperor dragonfly were seen at the new ponds at Wilstone Reservoir.



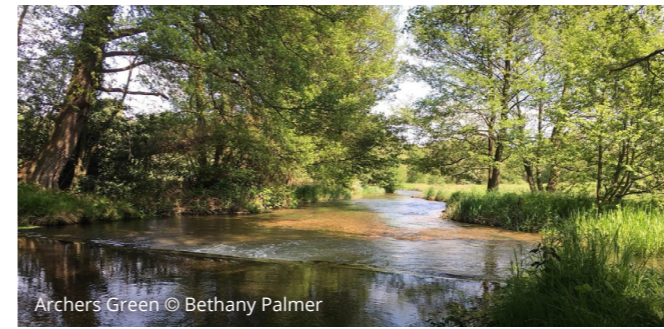
Fabulous flora

- Two plants of Herts Species of Conservation Concern were recorded – Mudwort and Lesser Marshwort, both of which are largely aquatic.
- Nationally rare, Norfolk Bladder-moss, and a Hertfordshire-rare moss *Riccia cavernosa* were recorded.
- A survey unveiled the highest numbers of Coralroot Bittercress at Old Park Wood since the early 1980s.
- There was a first record for Autumn Gentian, a late-flowering biennial, at Aldbury Nowers.



Magnificent mammals

- For the first time, the Harvest Mouse was found at Thorley Wash.
- Water Voles were reintroduced to the River Beane, and a 238% expansion of Water Vole populations recorded on the River Ver (one year post-reintroduction).



More space for nature

During the year, we've made some great strides to ensure nature has a place to thrive.

- We acquired Astonbury Wood Nature Reserve, an ancient woodland site, near Stevenage, and Archers Green Nature Reserve, with flower-rich grasslands and a superb stretch of the River Mimram, near Welwyn Garden City.
- Through our work, 28.6km of river was restored, protected or managed positively, 47 new ponds were created, plus 10 ponds were restored, protected or managed positively.
- Through our pioneering Angling and Nature Conservation Project, 27 management plans for fisheries in the Colne Valley were put into effect, demonstrating true landscape-scale delivery.

More people taking action for wildlife

We all have a part to play in building a wilder Hertfordshire and Middlesex – here's how people-power helped nature's recovery over the past year.



Supported by over 22,500 members



Milestone of 1,000 active volunteers reached



Volunteers collectively gave over 2,650 days of their time



Launched Nextdoor Nature community projects in *Wilder Dacorum* and *Wilder Watford*



Launched Herts Wild Art combining the interests of art and nature to inspire more people



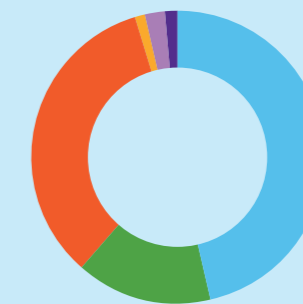
Over 4,400 people took part in over 300 Trust events

Standing up for nature

Creating a vibrant and sustainable future for wildlife means putting nature's recovery at the heart of local decision-making.

- During the last year, a total of 21,334 planning applications were reviewed, with 1,349 requiring further scrutiny.
- Herts Environmental Records Centre, which is hosted by the Trust, surpassed 3.2 million records held – vital data which informs conservation planning.

The Year In Numbers



Income:
TOTAL £2,564k

£1,190k
Membership Subscriptions

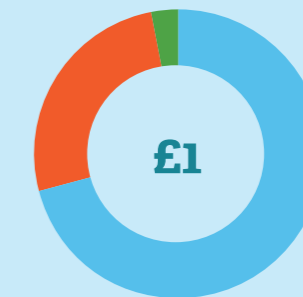
£863k
Donations, Gifts & Grants

£54k
Fundraising Activities

£390k
Fees & Contracts

£33k
Legacies

£34k
Investment & other income



Expenditure:
TOTAL £2,782k
For every £1 the Trust spends...

71p
Conservation & Nature Reserves

26p
Raising Funds

3p
Governance

We are very grateful to all our members, donors, grant funders and other supporters over the year.

Full details can be found in our Trustee Report and Accounts - bit.ly/43JWrTt

