

**CHARITY NUMBERS: 1159373 (England & Wales)**

**SC045685 (Scotland)**

**REWILDING BRITAIN**  
**(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**31 MARCH 2020**

*[www.rewildingbritain.org.uk](http://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk)*

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

When we launched five years ago, rewilding was widely considered by some to be a toxic word and provoked a highly polarised debate across Britain. Government departments would not countenance a role for rewilding in future land management and eNGOs rarely used the word in public, and usually declined to acknowledge that they were considering it on selected sites. Since then Rewilding Britain has adopted a concerted multi-track approach to promoting an accepted definition of rewilding and a set of pragmatic principles and priorities to back that up. This has involved targeted high level meetings, the continuous promotion of positive messages via mainstream and social media, based on real examples and evidence, and the production of pioneering reports to target specific policy areas (e.g. our decarbonising petition, report and subsequent parliamentary debate of 2019). As a result, five years on, rewilding is well on the way to becoming mainstream.

The coming year, with the global response to the Covid-19 pandemic as well the climate emergency and the extinction crisis, will be critical in determining how Britain sets in motion actions that will shape the coming decades. We must urgently reconsider what we are asking of our land and seas both in terms of drawing down carbon from the atmosphere but also how we adapt to the climate warming that is already built in. Nature here is already faring worse than in most other countries in the world - 56% of UK species are in decline and 15% are threatened with extinction. There are few areas that are large enough (over 10,000 ha) to sustain robust, naturally functioning ecosystems. Many upland areas, with the most potential for rewilding, are experiencing increasing economic challenges, including low incomes, a high dependency on subsidies and insufficient employment to keep young people in the area. Climate change is having an impact on the capacity of natural and productive systems to adapt and survive.

Rewilding Britain needs to build on its reputation for 'punching above our weight' and continue to be even more ambitious in how we help move the debate forward. There are already signs of hope. The imminent Agriculture Bill and Environment Bill in Westminster provide real opportunities for rewilding to be incentivised and embedded within appropriate land use policies as does the development of the post-CAP Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). The UN Climate Change COP26 and UN Conference on Biodiversity, while now postponed because of Covid-19, present major opportunities for rewilding's contribution as a nature-based solution to be recognised.

We are also encouraged by an enormous groundswell of interest and increasing requests for support from people who want to rewild the land they look after. In 2019, we were contacted by more than 50 landowners with as much as 35,000ha of land between them. They are already rewilding or are seriously considering rewilding – often as a direct result of our advice or information. This is in addition to the thousands of enquiries from smaller scale landowners requesting help and guidance. And it is only the tip of the iceberg.

We believe that there is a great deal more that rewilding can offer that will help achieve the beyond net zero climate targets that are required for Britain. This involves new and bold ideas that help to re-set how we in Britain approach our stewardship of land and marine areas. Our 2020 strategy reflects the role that Rewilding Britain can play in realising that potential impact, and in helping Britain to achieve 'better than net zero' climate ambitions.

George Levvy,

Chair, Rewilding Britain

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees of Rewilding Britain present their annual report for the year ended 31 March 2020 together with the financial statements for that period. The financial statements comply with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP2015).

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our charitable objects are:

*"To promote for the benefit of the public the improvement and conservation of the physical and natural environment in Britain by promoting the restoration of ecosystems and biological diversity"*

*"To advance the education of the public in the restoration, conservation and improvement of the physical and natural environment"*

The Trustees have referred to the guidance from the Charity Commission on public benefit in producing this report and when reviewing our aims and objectives and planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

#### Our vision

Rewilding is flourishing across Britain – reconnecting us with the natural world, sustaining communities and tackling the climate emergency and the extinction crisis.

#### Our mission

To champion rewilding in Britain – acting as a catalyst for debate and action, and demonstrating the power of working with nature to tackle the climate emergency and the extinction crisis.

#### Activities and services provided

Over the last year Rewilding Britain has continued to:

- 1) Develop an innovative approach to rewilding and support the development of rewilding project areas in collaboration with local partners.
- 2) Provide advice and guidance to the growing numbers of landowners – public, private and corporate - seeking advice on how to put rewilding into practice.
- 3) Raise the profile and understanding of rewilding amongst the general public, conservation practitioners and policy makers.
- 4) Influence policies related to rewilding, e.g. by influencing and commenting on the content of the 25-year Environment Plan and Agriculture Bills as well as the proposed Environmental Land Management scheme.

The specific activities and services provided to achieve each of these impacts are described in the following sections.

## Our achievements and performance in 2019/20

Rewilding Britain is focused on rewilding as the large-scale restoration of ecosystems where nature is allowed to take care of itself. Rewilding reinstates natural processes and, where appropriate, missing species – allowing them to shape the landscape and the habitats within it. It encourages a balance between people and the rest of nature where each can thrive. It provides opportunities for communities to diversify local economies to create sustainable nature-based enterprises; for living systems to provide the ecological functions on which we all depend; and for people to re-connect with wild nature.

During the last year we have focussed on achieving three outcomes:

1. **Rewilding land and sea:** 3-4 practical rewilding pilot projects underway, covering over at least 30,000 hectares managed by collaborative partnerships including landowners, managers, communities, those who work on the land or derive income from it, and relevant experts.
2. **Engaging people:** rewilding is increasingly seen by decision-makers, land owners/managers and the wider public as an accepted, inspiring and viable approach which can bring environmental, economic and social benefits to Britain.
3. **Develop Rewilding Britain as an organisation:** established effective governance and operating processes set up including financial and administrative systems. Investment has been made in our senior leadership team and staffing resources to meet our objectives.

### Objective 1

*3-4 practical rewilding pilot projects underway, covering over at least 30,000 hectares managed by collaborative partnerships including landowners, managers, communities, those who work on the land or derive income from it, and relevant experts.*

#### Key achievements:

- 1 active project now operating and evolving as a community-led partnership - Summit to Sea
- 3 rewilding projects in active project development (one in England and two in Southern Scotland)
- Various rewilding projects in discussion, preparing for development phase (across Britain)
- Cumulative pilot project rewilding area (in agreed partnerships) is now over 60,000 hectares
- Over 40,000 hectares of interest from smaller-scale land managers who wish to implement a rewilding approach and would like support/advice to help them do this
- Initial plans to develop a Rewilding Network to support more rewilding on the ground and to upscale potential impact on biodiversity and natural climate solutions

### Summit to Sea, Wales

Rewilding Britain's work over the past two years has been instrumental in making the Summit to Sea project in Wales a reality on the ground, and getting it up and running.

During this year, due to some opposition to our role as lead partner in the project being expressed locally and in the media, Rewilding Britain made the joint decision with the partnership to step aside from the project so that our presence does not present any kind of barrier to local support and involvement in the project. We are now confident that the partnership is moving towards a truly community-led project, with increasing involvement in decision-making by local businesses, landowners and residents.

The experience is informing our approach to the development of further rewilding projects in other areas. We are much clearer now that the success of these complex, large-scale rewilding projects is to create locally

determined visions for each area. This involves investing even more time before major project activities begin in meaningful, participatory community engagement. In particular, this means building trust with landowners, local stakeholders, businesses and NGOs in the early development phase of a project to encourage local voices to shape the project, and to get a truly community-led approach to rewilding at such a significant scale.

### **Southern Uplands Project (Talla Hartfell), Scotland**

In the Talla Hartfell project we are working with Borders Forest Trust and Southern Uplands Partnership to set in motion a locally-led partnership vision where a healthy, thriving, wild nature both addresses climate breakdown as well as drives the development of a new rural economy. Borders Forest Trust's work in the Carrifran Valley already demonstrates the difference that nature's restoration can make in just 15 years (see photos on the right from 1999 and 2015).



The local team has been working with stakeholders to explore different potential economic and ecological scenarios for the area. Two reports were commissioned to provide an assessment of these future economic scenarios for the area based on different land use options. The next stage, once this is possible in the context of Covid-19 restrictions, will be use these reports to build a more in-depth dialogue with stakeholders including landowners, councils, communities, and businesses to develop a shared vision for the area and to access funding to deliver its longer term objectives.



### **Wild Peak Project, England**

The Wild Peak project aims to restore natural processes and healthy functioning ecosystems of at least 30,000 ha from west to east through the Roaches and Goyt Valley up to Dove Stone, through the High Peak and down through Eastern Moors. Rewilding Britain has continued to work with a partnership of organisations to develop the project, led by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

### **Yearn Stane Project, Scotland**

Rewilding Britain continues to provide strategic support and facilitation to this new project in South West Scotland. After carrying out initial stakeholder outreach to establish that there is keen local appetite for the project, the local project team have produced a video to explain their vision and hopes for the area. We helped to facilitate a workshop with the project team and other local stakeholders, and there is potential for the project to link to a wider Local Enterprise Network, helping to look at how a large-scale nature restoration model also supports the local economy. With the partners, we are helping to prepare a project proposal for phase 2 of the project. A video about the project can be viewed [here](#).

### **The Rewilding Network**

Rewilding Britain has been receiving a constantly growing stream of enquiries from large to small-scale landowners for advice and guidance to help them start rewilding. In 2019, we were contacted by more than 50 landowners, mostly in England, with as much as 35,000ha of land between them. They are already rewilding or are seriously considering rewilding – often as a direct result of our advice or information. Around 30 of these are between 15ha and 400ha in size and 20 are over 400ha. This is in addition to the thousands of enquiries from smaller scale landowners requesting help and guidance - we received more enquiries about rewilding in the past year than in the whole of the previous four years combined.

Rewilding Britain is the obvious organisation to harness this enthusiasm, to create Britain's first learning and action network dedicated to helping people put rewilding into practice. The effective, sustainable network will provide guidance, support and access to expert knowledge. It will enable people to share experiences and learn from each other through online discussions, events and face-to-face meetings. Landowners will be able to identify others who share their objectives, helping them to work together and connect rewilding areas. We anticipate that the network will include provision of a consultancy service, content hub, online discussion forum, face-to-face networking and opportunity mapping & monitoring. We have begun the preparatory work on this; progressing the network will be a major priority of our work over the next year.

## Objective 2

*Rewilding is increasingly seen by decision-makers, practitioners, land owners/managers and the wider public as an accepted, inspiring and viable approach which can bring environmental, economic and social benefits.*

Rewilding Britain launched a [report](#) in May 2019 that analysed the potential for rewilding to mitigate climate breakdown and how to support land use change through a rural payments scheme. This clear evidence-based explanation and recommendations has deepened the level of public and policy engagement with rewilding. Linked to this we achieved over the 100,000 signatures required to trigger a parliamentary debate on rewilding and climate change through our [petition](#) calling on the UK governments to make a political and financial commitment to natural climate solutions. Our resulting 27% increase in twitter followers and +1.3m impressions, with increased media coverage, demonstrates increasing public awareness and understanding. The first parliamentary debate on rewilding took place in October 2019 with a key group of MPs engaging in enthusiastic discussion on the merits of rewilding and voting unanimously in favour.

Rewilding Britain has continued to take a multi-track approach to promote an accepted definition of rewilding and to advocate for its role as an accepted land management approach. Our expectations have been far exceeded. Rewilding is now well on the way to becoming mainstream. We are in ongoing discussions with Defra to secure its specific inclusion in the future Environmental Land Management Scheme and organisations such as The Wildlife Trusts, the National Trust and the Ministry of Defence are actively seeking rewilding opportunities on their land. The shift in attitudes and support for rewilding over the past year in particular has been truly remarkable, and Rewilding Britain has played a major part in that positive shift.

We have also been a founding member of the [Scottish Rewilding Alliance](#) which has been formalised as a group of organisations and land stewards in Scotland, focused on policy change to support rewilding. Rewilding Britain has an active involvement in this group, which has now produced an advocacy strategy and a draft report on rewilding and climate change in Scotland. These will be used to lobby the Scottish Government, linking rewilding with the Scottish government's global leadership on climate change. The photo to the right shows a meeting of the Alliance at Trees for Life's Dundreggan Estate in March this year.



We have also worked hard to help promote wider public understanding and acceptance of rewilding as a part of the solution for future land and sea management, resulting in our email newsletter subscribers increasing from 7,000 to over 15,000 in the last 12 months and our Twitter following has more than doubled from 16,000 to 37,000 in the last 18 months. Senior staff have contributed to press and media, e.g. via Channel 4 news, BBC and the Independent, and have presented at over 8 conferences to audiences of over 400 people.



### Objective 3

The opportunities for Rewilding Britain are growing apace, with increasing demands on our staff and operational infrastructure to prioritise and respond to these opportunities as well as to manage the complexities of wider stakeholder engagement and programme delivery. To achieve our objectives we have been expanding our capacity to deliver, with investment in people as well as in the systems and tools required.

We have recently put in place a Senior Leadership Team of five experienced staff - our Chief Executive, Director, Head of Communications, Head of Fundraising and Head of Finance & Operations. The team's role is to effectively implement strategic priorities, and to create frameworks and support for the delivery of other day-to-day operations.

We have also invested in the capacity of our wider team which now includes a Digital Communications Manager, Media Manager, Executive Administrator and Supporter Relations Officer, with occasional freelance and pro bono support. Our collaborative and entrepreneurial approach is a crucial factor in helping to work at the pace and direction required to deliver our ambitious strategy. Rewilding Britain continues to be governed by a board of eight experienced professionals, with the support of a wide network of partners and experts contributing to a progressive approach to rewilding.

We would like to thank every individual and organisation that has so generously supported the work of Rewilding Britain over the last year, including:

- *Trusts and Foundations:* in addition to the funds we received, including from The John Ellerman Foundation, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Patagonia Environment grant (Tides Foundation), Artemis Foundation, CHK Foundation, Hiscox Foundation, Frederick Mulder Foundation, Gower Street Foundation, Miss Bridget Catherine Johnson Charitable Trust and Taurus Foundation we have been awarded a grant by the Oak Foundation of £450,000 over 4 years.
- *Regular Giving:* we are very grateful to the increasing number of supporters who have helped to successfully expand our regular giving donation from £3,200 per month to about an average of £7,500 per month.
- *Corporate partnership:* corporate donations have grown during the year to £40,730, including contributions from The First Mile, Standard Life Aberdeen, Unique Home Stays, Vivo Barefoot, Made by Kind and Lua Limited. Thanks also to all the others who have started new partnerships with us, too many to mention!
- *Major donations:* amongst many generous donations from individuals we have received £175,000 from one donor to fund four specific rewilding projects, namely the Rewilding Network, Wild Peak, Talla Hartfell and Yearn Stane.

### Financial Review

Total income was £1.028m - an increase of £470k over 2018/19. £450k of this increase is because the Charity SORP required us to recognise the full amount of Oak Foundation's award funding covering the next four years, due to their grant conditions.

Unrestricted income was £305k, compared to £163k achieved in 2018/19. Of this, £140k was donated by Trusts and Foundations and £164k came from regular and one off donations from individuals.

We achieved a surplus of £47k on unrestricted funds increasing them from £193k to £240k, which is £70k above the minimum target of £170k required by our Financial Reserves Policy.

Accrued income of £452k includes £329k relating to years two, three and four of Oak Foundation's support, £35k gift aid recoverable, £62k due from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation to fund core costs and £24k recoverable in respect of costs incurred on the Summit to Sea Project.



During the year a Finance & Operations committee was formed, with the remit to assist the Board in its duty to supervise the broad direction of our charity's financial affairs and major operating risks. This comprises Julian Purvis (Treasurer), George Levvy (Chair), Joanne Smithson (Trustee), Rebecca Wrigley (Chief Executive) and Richard Miller (Finance Lead).

The Board is assessing the potential impact of Covid-19 on future incoming resources and funding opportunities. There is a risk that grant funders may choose to divert monies to other charitable causes, and that regular giving may decline. We are maintaining regular communications with all key funders, and are continuing to monitor and add to other sources of income where possible. We are grateful to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for a forthcoming third year of support, contributing towards core costs of delivering our objectives. We have also secured a grant from the Oak Foundation towards our core costs of delivering the strategy over the coming four years.

### Financial Reserves Policy

The Board understand their obligation to apply income to Rewilding Britain's charitable objectives as soon as practicable. Our reserves policy and our target reserves levels are reviewed annually by our Trustee Board, normally in September.

The Trustees Reserves policy is to hold unrestricted reserves, excluding any designated funds, in a range of £170,000 - £300,000. This reflects the Trustees current appraisal of working capital requirements, the risks in Rewilding Britain's sources of budgeted income, an allowance for unplanned expenditure and funding for key investments during the next planning cycle.

We held £239,710 (2019 £193,008) unrestricted funds at the year end.

Whilst this is within our target range, we are increasing our charitable expenditure on rewilding as part of our four year plan, with a number of projects and initiatives to create impact. This will require us to secure additional funding to maintain a sustainable level of unrestricted reserves.

### Fundraising approach and performance

At this stage our public fundraising activity has been online and is in line with the Fundraising code of practice set up by the Fundraising Regulator.

If you support us by becoming a supporter or donor you can be sure that we will never sell your contact details to anyone outside of Rewilding Britain and we will only contact you if you have expressed an interest in our work. If you ask us to change how we communicate with you, or stop, we will respect that.

Our fundraising performance exceeded the budgets we set.

### Risk Management

The Board recognises its responsibilities in terms of managing risk and has systems in place to ensure that the risks faced by the charity are identified, assessed, managed and monitored.

Risks are assessed by senior staff and the Board. Current material risks have been formally reviewed by the Board at each meeting during the year. The main categories of risk are:

- External
- Reputational
- Financial
- Regulatory
- Governance and staffing

The Board considers the gross risk before taking into account the internal and external controls and the residual net risk after these internal and external controls are applied.

The major external risks are the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as those relating to the UK's departure from the European Union. Covid-19 has severely constrained practical restoration activities as well as engagement with landowners and communities. These include future funding for land management that will arise from new agricultural policies in Britain, as well as any changes in environmental law and policy. Notwithstanding the risks, this also creates some significant opportunities as a new framework could accommodate and encourage rewilding initiatives in suitable locations.

Our internal controls are intended to manage rather than eliminate risks and to give reasonable rather than absolute reassurances.

There are three significant internal net risks, all of which are considered to be acceptable:

- Loss of key staff and contractors
- Our ability to raise sufficient unrestricted funds to enable us to develop our infrastructure in ways that optimise the potential public benefits from our pilot projects in Wales, Scotland and England
- Misconceptions of the term “rewilding”

Our system of internal control includes:

- A strategic and operational plan
- Regular monitoring of actual performance compared to objectives and targets
- A range of policies (e.g. financial reserves policy) and procedures
- A regular review of risks, especially financial risks

The day-to-day management is delegated to our Chief Executive, Rebecca Wrigley.

## FUTURE PLANS

Over the next year we will be focussing on the following:

1. We will work in partnership with other experts and practitioners to support and create a Rewilding Network to share rewilding research, evidence and expertise to catalyse practice.
2. We will engage key audiences to ensure rewilding is more widely understood and supported by the public, and will provide actions for those who want to support rewilding personally.
3. We will promote and advocate for the adoption of policies, legislation and practice which embed, and provide mainstream political and financial support for, rewilding.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### Legal and Administrative Details

Rewilding Britain was founded in 2014 as charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). It is registered in England and Wales (Charity no. 1159373), and Scotland (Charity no. SC045685) Its registered office is The Courtyard, Shoreham Road, Upper Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3TN. It is governed by its Constitution adopted on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

The members of the Trustee Board are Trustees under charity law. They are also known as Board Members.

## Recruitment of trustees

Trustees are recruited in accordance with our Constitution. In selecting individuals for appointment of trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Charity.

## The Board

The Board is made up of at least three and not more than twelve trustees including the Chair. All Board Members serve a three-year term of office and can be re-elected for further terms of three years.

## Induction and training of trustees

All members of the Board have role descriptions and take part in induction programmes, training and development as appropriate.

## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (SORP 2015 (FRS 102));
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

The following statements have been affirmed by each of the Trustees of the charity:

- so far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information, (that is, information needed by the charity's independent examiner in connection with preparing her report), of which the auditor is unaware; and
- each Trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

### Management

The Board delegates responsibility for the day to day management of Rewilding Britain to its Chief Executive Rebecca Wrigley.

### The Board

The present office holders and any past office holders who served during the year, and to the date of signing this Report, are listed below.

#### The Board (Trustees)

Toby Aykroyd	Trustee
Charles Burrell	Trustee
Mike Daniels	Trustee
Elaine Gilligan	Trustee
Giancarlo Laurenzi	Trustee
George Levvy	Chair
Julian Purvis	Treasurer & Company Secretary
Joanne Smithson	Trustee (Appointed 9 September 2019)

#### Senior Staff

Rebecca Wrigley	Chief Executive
Alastair Driver	Director
Melanie Newton	Summit to Sea Project Director
Hillary Cross	Head of Communications
Kate Barclay	Fundraising Lead
Richard Miller	Finance & Operations Lead

#### Professional Advisers

A list of Rewilding Britain's professional advisers appears on page 25.

Approved by the Trustees on 3 June 2020 and signed on their behalf by:



George Levvy - Chair

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

### YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

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#### **Opinion**

We have audited the accounts of Rewilding Britain for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 March 2020 and of their income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and the regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 Charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

### **Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent Charity have not kept adequate sufficient accounting records or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the charity's accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of the trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### **Use of our Report**

This report is made solely to the Charity's members, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's 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 Charity and the Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Mr Mark Cummins FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

for and on behalf of TC Group

**Statutory Auditor**

Dated: 10 July 2020

Office: Steyning, West Sussex



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
<b>Income from</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	163,992	175,000	338,992	77,795
Charitable activities	4	140,497	548,200	688,697	479,282
Investments		160	-	160	459
<b>Total</b>		<b>304,649</b>	<b>723,200</b>	<b>1,027,849</b>	<b>557,536</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>	5				
Raising funds		37,031	-	37,031	24,722
Charitable activities		220,916	251,758	472,674	241,098
<b>Total</b>		<b>257,947</b>	<b>251,758</b>	<b>509,705</b>	<b>265,820</b>
<b>Net income</b>		<b>46,702</b>	<b>471,442</b>	<b>518,144</b>	<b>291,716</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		193,008	256,609	449,617	157,901
Total funds carried forward		<b>239,710</b>	<b>728,051</b>	<b>967,761</b>	<b>449,617</b>

All of the charity's activities are continuing.

There are no gains and losses other than those shown above.

*The notes on pages 17 to 25 form part of these financial statements*

## BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 MARCH 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	9	452,253	252,083
Cash at bank and in hand		560,162	757,549
<i>Total current assets</i>		<b>1,012,415</b>	<b>1,009,632</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(44,654)	(560,015)
<i>Net current assets</i>		<b>967,761</b>	<b>449,617</b>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		<b>967,761</b>	<b>449,617</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>967,761</b>	<b>449,617</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>	11		
Unrestricted funds		239,710	193,008
Restricted funds	12	728,051	256,609
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<b>967,761</b>	<b>449,617</b>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on 3 June 2020 by:



} George Levvy  
Chair

*The notes on pages 17 to 25 form part of these financial statements.*

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

### YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

		2020	2019
		£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>	Note:		
<i>Net cash (absorbed) / provided by operating activities (see Table 1)</i>		(197,547)	586,801
<i>Net cash provided by investing activities (interest receivable)</i>		160	459
		<u>(197,387)</u>	<u>587,260</u>
<b>(Decrease) / Increase in Cash</b>			
 <i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</i>			
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2019 (see Table 2)</b>		<u>757,549</u>	<u>170,289</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2020 (see Table 2)</b>		<u>560,162</u>	<u>757,549</u>
		2020	2019
		£	£
<b>Table 1: Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities</b>			
<i>Net income for the year</i>		518,144	291,716
<b>Adjustments for:</b>			
Increase in debtors	9	(200,170)	(250,676)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	10	(515,361)	546,220
Investment income (interest receivable)	4	(160)	(459)
		<u>(197,547)</u>	<u>586,801</u>
<b>Net cash (absorbed) / provided by operating activities</b>			
		2020	2019
		£	£
<b>Table 2: Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>			
<b>Cash in hand</b>		560,162	757,549
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>		<u>560,162</u>	<u>757,549</u>

*The notes on pages 17 to 25 form part of these financial statements.*

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

### 1. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### *a) Basis of accounting and statement of compliance*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2015 (FRS 102)), and applicable accounting standards (FRS102).

Rewilding Britain is a public benefit entity.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. This includes taking into account any potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is further detailed in the trustees report. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and as such, the going concern basis has been adopted for the preparation of these financial statements.

The principal accounting policies and estimation techniques are as follows:

#### *b) Income*

Voluntary income and grants receivable are recognised when the amount can be accurately quantified, it becomes probable that the income will be received and the charity becomes entitled to the income.

Investment income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

#### *c) Fixed Assets*

Items over £1,000 will be capitalised. Fixed assets will be stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

When appropriate, depreciation of fixed assets will be provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets over their anticipated useful lives and will be charged on a monthly basis from purchase, for example:

Computer equipment	25% straight line
--------------------	-------------------

#### *d) Fund Accounting*

Restricted funds are those the use of which is restricted by the conditions imposed by the donors.

Unrestricted funds are those which are available for the general advancement of Rewilding Britain's objectives.

Designated Funds are those which trustees have allocated to be used for a specific purpose.

## 1. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### *e) Allocation of Costs*

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis when a liability is incurred. Overheads and support costs have been allocated to the cost headings in the Statement of Financial Activities as follows:

An estimate of staff time spent on each activity during the year, together with the individual's salary cost, has been used to calculate the actual cost of staff time spent on each activity.

Support costs include the costs of Premises, Human Resources, IT and Governance. These have been allocated to our charitable activities and fundraising in the same proportions as our expenditure on those areas of activity, prior to the allocation of support costs.

### *f) Charitable activities*

Charitable activity costs include all expenditure incurred in direct pursuit of Rewilding Britain's charitable objectives.

### *g) VAT*

Rewilding Britain is not VAT registered. Costs include VAT where applicable.

### *h) Pension schemes*

Rewilding Britain operates defined contribution pension schemes for all qualifying employees. The assets of the schemes are held in separate funds administered by independent providers.

### *i) Creditors and provisions*

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

### *j) Cash at bank and in hand*

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments. The trustees seek to use short-term deposits where possible to optimise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

### *k) Debtors*

Amounts owing to the charity at the balance sheet date are shown as debtors less any provisions for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

### *l) Key estimates and judgements*

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised

The trustees do not consider that there are any critical estimates or areas of judgement that need to be brought to the attention of the readers of the financial statements.

## 2. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019 Total £	2018 Total £
<b>Income from</b>				
Donations and legacies	47,795	30,000	77,795	22,385
Charitable activities	114,436	364,846	479,282	181,499
Investments	459	-	459	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>162,690</b>	<b>394,846</b>	<b>557,536</b>	<b>203,884</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>				
Raising funds	24,722	-	24,722	9,937
Charitable activities	74,716	166,382	241,098	174,263
<b>Total</b>	<b>99,438</b>	<b>166,382</b>	<b>265,820</b>	<b>184,200</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>63,252</b>	<b>228,464</b>	<b>291,716</b>	<b>19,684</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>				
Total funds brought forward	129,756	28,145	157,901	138,217
Total funds carried forward	<b>193,008</b>	<b>256,609</b>	<b>449,617</b>	<b>157,901</b>

## 3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Major personal donations	30,665	175,000	205,665	13,137
General donations	133,327	-	133,327	34,658
Legacies	-	-	-	30,000
	<b>163,992</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>338,992</b>	<b>77,795</b>

## 4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2020 £	2019 £
Grants from Trusts and Foundations	688,697	479,282
	<b>688,697</b>	<b>479,282</b>

## 5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Staff costs £	Other costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Raising funds</b>				
Fundraising costs	15,951	15,584	31,535	21,296
Support costs	2,601	2,895	5,496	3,426
<b>Total raising funds</b>	<b>18,552</b>	<b>18,479</b>	<b>37,031</b>	<b>24,722</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
<u>Rewilding Land &amp; Sea</u>				
Activities undertaken directly	128,289	125,631	253,290	95,573
Support costs	11,705	13,026	24,731	10,278
Total	139,994	138,657	278,651	105,851
<u>Engaging People</u>				
Activities undertaken directly	43,662	125,630	169,292	64,991
Support costs	11,705	13,026	24,731	10,278
Total	55,367	138,656	194,023	75,269
<u>Developing Rewilding Britain</u>				
Activities undertaken directly	-	-	-	49,700
Support costs	-	-	-	10,278
Total	-	-	-	59,978
<b>Total charitable activities</b>	<b>195,361</b>	<b>277,313</b>	<b>472,674</b>	<b>241,098</b>
	<b>213,913</b>	<b>295,792</b>	<b>509,705</b>	<b>265,820</b>

## 6. EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

	2020 No	2019 No
Average monthly headcount	7	3
Employee costs were as follows:	£	£
Salaries	189,754	64,911
National Insurance	15,248	2,828
Pension contributions	8,911	2,235
	<b>213,913</b>	<b>69,974</b>

Rewilding Britain has a Group Personal Pension Scheme with Aviva. Rewilding Britain contributes 4% of eligible employees' salaries to their pension plans, with a matching option up to 6%. 8 members of staff (2019: 5) were members of the Group Personal Pension Plan at the end of the year.

No employees received £60,000 or more.

The Director, Chief Executive, Fundraising Lead, Finance and Operations Lead, Head of Communications and Project Director makes up the key management personnel of the charity. The remuneration of key management personnel (including national insurance contributions and employer's pension contributions) was £175,049 (2019: £36,996).



## 7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year the charity was controlled by the trustees. None of the Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2019: none). Expenses reimbursed to four trustees (2019: five) during the year amounted to £1,448 (2019: £5,549).

## 8. AUDITOR'S/INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REMUNERATION

	2020	2019
	£	£
Independent examination	-	1,200
Audit	6,000	-
Other services	5,970	7,014
	<b>11,970</b>	<b>8,214</b>

## 9. DEBTORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Prepayments & accrued income	452,253	252,083
	<b>452,253</b>	<b>252,083</b>

## 10. CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	26,751	1,966
Accruals & deferred income	11,741	65,842
PAYE/NI payable	4,710	2,830
Pensions payable	1,452	841
Other creditors	-	488,536
	<b>44,654</b>	<b>560,015</b>

2019 other creditors consisted of funds received from the Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Cambridge of The Old Schools in respect of the Endangered Landscapes Project. These funds were transferred to The Woodland Trust, as Lead Finance Partner of the project, in May 2019.

## 11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

As at 31 March 2020:

	<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>	<b>Investments</b>	<b>Net Current Assets Less: Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>Total Net Assets</b>
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds (note 12)	-	-	728,051	728,051
Unrestricted Funds	-	-	239,710	239,710
<b>At 31 March 2020</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>967,761</b>	<b>967,761</b>

As at 31 March 2019:

	<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>	<b>Investments</b>	<b>Net Current Assets Less: Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>Total Net Assets</b>
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds (note 12)	-	-	256,609	256,609
Unrestricted Funds	-	-	193,008	193,008
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>449,617</b>	<b>449,617</b>

## 12. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
CHK Foundation	-	25,000	-	<b>25,000</b>
Endangered Landscapes	102,609	73,200	(159,758)	<b>16,051</b>
English Projects	-	62,500	-	<b>62,500</b>
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	124,000	-	(62,000)	<b>62,000</b>
Oak Foundation	-	450,000	-	<b>450,000</b>
Rewilding Network	-	75,000	-	<b>75,000</b>
Southern Uplands	30,000	-	(30,000)	-
Talla Hartfell	-	18,750	-	<b>18,750</b>
Yearn Stane Project	-	18,750	-	<b>18,750</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>256,609</b>	<b>723,200</b>	<b>(251,758)</b>	<b>728,051</b>

The CHK Foundation fund relates to income received towards Wild Peak and Wild Talla Hartfell projects.

The Endangered Landscapes fund relates to funding provided by the Endangered Landscapes Programme for the Summit to Sea project in mid Wales.

The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation fund relates to income received to finance our core costs.

The Oak Foundation fund relates to income received to fund core support.

During the year the charity received £140,000 (plus £35,000 gift aid receivable) to fund four specific projects:

- Rewilding Network
- Wild Peak
- Talla Hartfell
- Yearn Stane

The Rewilding Network fund consists of funding received to build an effective, sustainable network to provide guidance, support and access to expert rewilding knowledge.

The Southern Uplands fund relates to funds provided to support the development of an environmental and economic regeneration project in the Southern Uplands of Scotland.

The Yearn Stane Project fund relates to funds received to facilitate a project in Scotland, further details of which can be found in the Trustees' Report.

### 13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The only related party transactions undertaken in the years to March 2019 and March 2020 are the reimbursed trustee expenses and transactions outlined in note 7.

### 14. TAXATION

As a charity, Rewilding Britain is exempt from income tax to the extent that income generated is applied to the organisation's charitable purpose.

### 15. LEGAL FORM

Rewilding Britain is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in both England & Wales and Scotland.

## PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

### **Auditor**

TC Group  
The Courtyard,  
Shoreham Road  
Upper Beeding  
Steyning  
West Sussex  
BN44 3TN

### **Bankers**

The Co-operative Bank plc.  
P.O. Box 101  
1 Balloon Street  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

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