

WORKING TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE

60TH
ANNIVERSARY
EDITION

Impact Report 2019



Essex
Wildlife Trust

Love **Essex** • Love **Wildlife**

‘ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST
TRULY IS A BEACON OF
LIGHT AND POSITIVITY
IN DIFFICULT TIMES’

Keeley Hazelhurst
Chair, Essex Wildlife Trust



Essex
Wildlife Trust

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Contents

A shining light	4
Working together for wildlife	5
Protecting wildlife	6
Demonstrating wildlife gain	7
Maximising the conservation value of land and sea	8
Championing key species	9
In a nutshell: a summary of our impact	10
Inspiring a lifelong love of nature	12
Creating places of wonder	13
Delivering outstanding outdoor learning	14
Growing wildlife supporters	15
The good, the bad and the ugly	16
We couldn't do it without you	17
Financial summary	18
The next decade	19

A shining light



Keeley Hazelhurst

Chair
Essex Wildlife Trust

Essex Wildlife Trust truly is a beacon of light and positivity in difficult times.

I am so proud of the way the whole team has responded to the current COVID crisis with kindness and care and optimism, and to the climate crisis with passion, commitment and action. Our staff and volunteers are truly inspirational.

It is difficult to look back on 2019 in isolation and not reflect upon the huge changes to the world in 2020. What should be a celebration of all the amazing achievements of Essex Wildlife Trust seems insensitive at a time when many have lost loved ones, incomes are less secure, and the nation's health has been severely impacted.

2019 was our 60th anniversary – a time to reflect on the impact we have had on Essex over the years. Many of our success stories are not single events, but the culmination of years of work by dedicated staff. For instance, a 25-year project which has seen the recovery of the otter population in Essex, or the long-standing Forest School programmes, inspiring primary school children and their families to get outside and enjoy nature.

New events such as Wildfest and Plasticology workshops connect us with younger audiences, whilst our Local Groups and events continue to engage with long-standing members. Never before has the importance of our connections with each other and with nature been more apparent.

Essex Wildlife Trust is being proactive to ensure the best possible conditions for wildlife at our 101 stunning sites; we are continuing to campaign, lobby and consult on projects which impact nature; and to teach, inspire and share the beautiful world we have around us.

Our staff, volunteers and members provide the spark of light, the inspiration for Essex Wildlife Trust and for our county, and may it continue for another 60 years!

Keeley Hazelhurst

Working together for wildlife



Andrew Impey

Chief Executive Officer
Essex Wildlife Trust

In our 60th anniversary year, we continued to improve our conservation outcomes, our education, our membership base, media profile, online presence, partnership development, organisational culture and commercial income.

Our Annual General Meeting in September was the culmination of a year of celebration. Award-winning naturalist broadcaster, Steve Backshall, drew a sell-out crowd in the evening for our largest ever fundraising event, which raised £8k for wildlife conservation and engaged new audiences for the Trust. After a night of fascinating tales and nail-biting videos, Steve stayed on at Abberton Reservoir until long past midnight, signing books and posing for photos until every last family had been given the chance to meet him.

Our anniversary year also saw our beloved badger logo given a much-needed facelift, as we revamped our visual identity and Brand Guidelines. 'Boris the Badger' was transformed into a more modern incarnation, 'Billie the Badger', who has become the new gender-neutral emblem of the Trust, retaining the best of our heritage and tradition but moving with the times, capturing the energy and ambition of Essex Wildlife Trust for the decade ahead.

Our ability to protect wildlife and inspire a lifelong love of nature is in large part determined by our effectiveness as an organisation. People are the lifeblood of the Trust; our staff, volunteers, members, and supporters, all acting for wildlife. It was therefore heartening to be awarded 1 Star status by Best Companies in 2019, the organisational equivalent of a Michelin Star. Furthermore, we retained our place in the Sunday Times Top 100 Best Not-for-Profit Organisations in the UK, a significant accolade for a county-based charity.

Among the many inspiring achievements of volunteers, Ray Marsh, our warden at Skipper's Island for 60 years, and a pioneer of nature conservation from the 1950s onwards, received a national award for volunteering, The Cadbury Medal, which is awarded to only a single recipient annually. The symmetry in our sixtieth anniversary year speaks for itself.

I hope you enjoy reading about this year's successes, which are your successes as much as ours. It fills me with enormous pride to reflect on what we have achieved together as a conservation charity over the past 60 years, and how vitally important our work continues to be. With the climate and ecological crisis, our work is more important than ever. There is much to do.

Andrew Impey



Protecting wildlife

Although we manage over a **hundred sites** across the county, **protecting** and **enhancing habitats** for **wildlife**, we know that this isn't enough in the context of the climate and ecological crises. Our aim is to **enhance** and **expand** our conservation activities, not just preserve the wildlife we already have for posterity. This is just a snapshot of some of our additional projects and activities in 2019.

Demonstrating wildlife gain

One of the many new projects we developed in 2019 was **Share Our Shores**, a partnership project with the RSPB, which you'll be hearing a lot more about in the coming years. As the human population of Essex grows, we must protect our breeding wildlife. Share Our Shores is one of our first 'behaviour change' projects at the Trust. The aim is to increase the populations of important and iconic beach-nesting birds, such as the tiny little tern, the ringed plover, and the brightly beaked oystercatcher, by creating ideal nesting sites and reducing recreational disturbance.

Among the most exciting projects to come to fruition in 2019 has been the **Essex Barn Owl Conservation Project**. In the project's final year of monitoring, we recorded 207 nesting sites, 51 of which were active sites (one or more eggs) compared to 39 in 2018, with a mean brood size of 3 chicks and a nesting success rate of 24%, the highest recorded by the project. Barn owls are one of Essex's most iconic birds. To see their numbers increasing is fantastic.

2019 was a significant year for planning casework, one of the most important ways that we influence wildlife gain across the county. We have been involved in green infrastructure planning for the **Dunton Hills** development in Brentwood, we engaged in the consultation process for **Middlewick Ranges** in Colchester, and we contributed to the masterplanning of two strategic housing sites in Chelmsford.

We negotiated with the developer of a new housing scheme adjacent to **Blue House Farm**, the outcome of which was a more sympathetic lighting strategy, and we began work with the Environment Bank on a biodiversity project for **Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park**. A significant amount of work was involved in investigating the planning history that led to habitat damage at **Salary Brook** in Colchester, as well as subsequent negotiations.

We also submitted our consultation response to oppose the development of the **Lower Thames Crossing** and proposed a number of large-scale enhancements.



Photo: Terry Whittaker/2020VISION

Maximising the conservation value of land and sea

Following extensive campaigning and lobbying by The Wildlife Trusts, two new **Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)** were designated in Essex in 2019: **Kentish Knock East** and **Swanscombe**. We have been committed to the development of marine designations for a number of years, which strengthen the UK's nature recovery network at sea. They build on the designation of our first MCZ, the Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries, in 2013.

As well as maintaining over a hundred nature reserves, we have also been planning for the future. A number of ambitious management plans have been developed this year which will yield future successes. One of the management plans that we are most excited about is at **Blue House Farm**. Our new plan has a clear vision for the next five years and beyond, including large habitat enhancements. Exciting plans for **Fobbing Marsh** are also underway.

It was a good year for volunteers. We continued to develop our volunteer **River Warden Scheme** and our **Coastal Warden Scheme**, engaging local communities in citizen science and environmental monitoring, while at **Abberton Reservoir**, 4,000 new trees were planted over winter, in partnership with Essex and Suffolk Water, taking the grand total to 80,000 trees planted since the site was remodelled. These trees will provide important habitat and passageways for wildlife.

A partnership project at the newly acquired **Oliver Road Lagoons** site will lay the foundations for a year of habitat enhancement delivery work next year, which will be funded in part by the Land of the Fanns project across the Thurrock district. This year we conducted

a full invertebrate survey which has been crucial in informing the management plan. The team have already started on some important habitat enhancements for key invertebrate species.

There are now open areas of acid grassland habitat within **Little Haven**, **Pound Wood**, **Valerie Wells** and **Cooper's Woods**, with species such as heath milkwort, heath speedwell, pill sedge and golden rod all now present across the **Daws Heath** landscape.

Reflecting our focus on **Living Seas** as well as **Living Landscapes**, 2019 was a fantastic year for marine conservation and public engagement. We successfully delivered wildlife and fisheries projects, receiving generous funding from the North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group for a marine education project and a fish citizen science project which gave us the opportunity to train 20 new marine citizen scientists. We also had our most successful **Marine Month** ever, organising numerous events and surveys throughout August, including Shoresearch surveys, estuarine fish survey training, marine wildlife talks, a whale and dolphin watch survey, a marine wildlife celebration day at The Naze, and the introduction of saltmarsh education into our programme of Nature Courses.

Nine **Shoresearch** surveys were delivered as part of this year's programme, covering six locations, helped by over 120 volunteers. This is a significant platform on which to build future work, increasing our capacity to collect valuable data on coastal species and habitats. We also continued to monitor our ongoing saltmarsh restoration experiments using sustainable coir roll 'saltmarsh sausages'.



Photo: Nick Upton/Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Championing key species

2019 saw the reintroduction of **beavers** in Essex for the first time in 400 years. Working in partnership with Spains Hall Estate, where the pair of Eurasian beavers are based, we have been mapping and monitoring the beaver enclosure and recording changes to habitats. Beavers are ecosystems engineers, transforming the land and creating new habitats for other species. This historic and game-changing conservation project is already exceeding our expectations. Within weeks they had significantly reduced the flood risk in Finchingfield.

The **otter's** journey from extinction to recovery is one of Essex's great conservation success stories. It has been part of the fossil records of the British Isles for a staggering half a million years, yet by 1986 the otter was extinct in Essex. This year, to coincide with the final survey, we published our 25 Year Otter Report, which charts the return of this iconic species. It has been incredible to see a clear trend in the return of the otter over the past quarter of a century. We also completed the Roman River Report after 11 years of collaboration with Colchester Natural History Society.

This year, in collaboration with the Southern Colour Ringing Group, we also expanded our pioneering satellite tagging project to track how **dark-bellied brent geese** use the Essex coastline over winter and to follow their journey back to their breeding grounds in Siberia, a 2,500-mile migration. The dark-bellied brent goose arrives in October, with over a quarter of the world's population spending the winter months along the Essex coast. In March they begin their epic migration once again. The satellite data informed our management plans at numerous reserves, as we now have a much more sophisticated understanding of their movements between sites. Through conservation efforts, 2019 resulted in the largest flock of dark-bellied brent geese ever recorded at Lower Raypits.

2019 in a nutshell



101

sites managed
for wildlife

2 NEW

MARINE CONSERVATION
ZONES (MCZS) DESIGNATED
IN ESSEX

Beavers

in Essex for the
first time in

400 years

Previously extinct

otters

thriving in

rivers after

25 years

of conservation

207 NEW

BARN OWL
NESTING SITES

Sunday Times

Top 100

Best Not-for-Profit Organisations in the UK



4000

new trees planted at Abberton



1 STAR

STATUS AWARDED BY
BEST COMPANIES



78%

OF VISITORS RATED
THEIR EXPERIENCE
'EXCELLENT'

Love Essex • Love Wildlife

67,000 CUPS OF TEA AND COFFEE SOLD



1,150,000

VISITORS
TO CENTRES

UP 8% ON 2018

76.5k

meaningful interactions with children
60k in 2018

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF OUR HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2019
THESE ARE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AS MUCH AS OURS



39.1K

37.9K IN 2018

MEMBERS

10K

NEW SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

UP 35% ON 2018

35,000,000

readers in print media alone

NATIONAL
NEWS STORIES

60

3,100

participants in 30 Days Wild

2,200 IN 2018

£217,000

profit generated
by centres to
be gift aided
to the Trust

8,000

PEOPLE
ATTENDED
CENTRE
EVENTS



Essex
Wildlife Trust

1,000 people attended the AGM fundraiser

Our mission is to **protect wildlife** and **inspire a lifelong love of nature**. Modern conservation must inspire people beyond the conservation community. We cannot do it all ourselves. Although we have large landholdings throughout Essex, we cover a proportionally small area of the county. We must inspire others to help.

We know from research that, when people feel connected to nature, they are far more likely to take positive action to protect wildlife and help us to achieve our mission. Through our Nature Discovery Centres, our education programmes, and our communications activities, we have a unique opportunity to connect people to nature by providing great experiences both physically and virtually. Here are some of the new activities and improvements we made in 2019.

Inspiring
a lifelong

love^{of}
nature

Creating places of wonder

Our **Nature Discovery Centres** (formerly known as Visitor Centres) had another great year. We saw a total of **1.15 million visitors**, an **8%** increase on 2018, with all sites seeing an increase in visitor numbers.

We have been working hard to get to know our visitors even better. We know that **22%** come to use our cafés, **20%** come for a walk, and **11%** come to see wildlife. Over **78%** of our visitors rated their experience with us as **'excellent'**, which is a great benchmark, but still leaves room for improvement. Many of our visitors (**28%**) come to our sites on a weekly basis, but **2%** come every day! We are also still seeing lots of new visitors discovering our sites, with **15%** visiting for the first time. Most people stayed for a couple of hours.

Our centre events had another successful year, running a huge variety of events to encourage as much diversity as possible. Over **8,000** people attended centre events in 2019. It's been a standout year for profit. Our Nature Discovery Centre trading generated **£217k** profit to be gift aided to the Trust, we sold **67,000** cups of tea and coffee, and our cafés now represent **75%** of our turnover of our trading subsidiary, Essex Wildlife Sales Limited.

Much of the initial work for the rebuilding of the **Langdon Nature Discovery Centre** was done in 2019. The new building will finally give Langdon the visitor centre it deserves. It will have an extended car park that includes disabled parking bays, a larger café, more indoor seating and new outdoor seating, bigger and better education facilities, and improved staff and volunteer facilities. The new building will be as environmentally friendly as possible and is being built on the existing centre footprint. It will be equipped with an energy efficient ventilation system to heat the building and high efficiency insulation which will make for a much more sustainable building.

Delivering outstanding outdoor learning

Our outdoor learning work continued to go from strength to strength as we consolidated our position as the county's leading provider (and trainer) of outdoor education, ensuring that children – as the stewards, conservationists, ecologists and eco-minded citizens of the future – are connected to the natural world. In 2018, we achieved **60k** meaningful interactions with children, which was a step-change in activity levels at the time. In 2019, we had **76.5k** interactions, a **28%** increase in delivery.

Our work with schools has continued to grow too. We ran more **Forest Schools** than ever in 2019, as well as training more educators in outdoor learning through our accredited programmes. We received £90k to deliver wellbeing-focused Forest Schools in Colchester and Tendring, an initiative called **Wild Wellbeing**, which enabled us to work in close partnership with the NHS and Community 360, while we also received £9k from M&G to deliver Forest School programmes in Chelmsford.

2019 was also the launch of our flagship programme of **Plasticology workshops**, funded by corporate partners, which educates school-age children about the relationship between plastic and the natural world, particularly in the sea. We received an additional £10k from the North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group to enable us to work with 20 more schools on an exciting programme of activities called **Under the Sea**, ensuring that we engaged children with marine and freshwater wildlife as well as terrestrial.

Our (soon to be annual) children's festival, **Wildfest** ('Rewild Your Child'), was launched on 17 August at Thameside Nature Park. Wildfest focused on Marine Month and showcased the full breadth of our education portfolio, with hundreds of parents and children attending. The feedback was fantastic.

One of our big ventures was **Nature Friendly Schools**, a new and exciting project led by The Wildlife Trusts in partnership with Groundwork, the Field Studies Council, the Sensory Trust and YoungMinds to support teachers across England to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for children and young people through nature, targeting children affected by poor mental health and transforming thousands of lives.

We know that children learn better, have more fun, and are happier and healthier when they spend time outdoors connecting with nature. For this reason, we undertook extensive planning in 2019 to open our first outdoor **Nature Nursery**, which will launch in April 2021. The Nature Nursery will offer high-quality education and childcare, underpinned by early childhood research and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. We want to engage people at every age and stage of life. The Nature Nursery will allow us to have a positive influence on children and parents at the earliest stage of education.

Among our most ambitious outreach projects this year was our **Lost Words** campaign. Changes to the Oxford Junior Dictionary have meant that many words that describe British nature and wildlife have been removed, including 'acorn' and 'conker', and replaced by newer words such as 'broadband' and 'voicemail'. We began fundraising to ensure that all 800 schools in Essex have a copy of the seminal book, *Lost Words*, by Robert McFarlane and Jackie Morris.

Growing wildlife supporters

It was a great year for membership. We started the year with 37.9k members and ended the year on **39.1k members**, passing the 38k and 39k thresholds for the first time ever.

It's been a great year for raising the profile of wildlife in Essex too. We had a total readership of over **35 million** in print media (excluding online coverage) with more than **60** stories featuring in the national press. We had almost **40** radio features and **18** TV features across all terrestrial networks, as well as Sky News and Virgin Media. BBC Countryfile came to Fingringhoe for our first ever winter fish survey in the intertidal area and to find out about otters and our pioneering work on eDNA metabarcoding surveys.

We gained **10k** more social media followers across our three main platforms, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, ending the year with **41.5K followers**, an increase of **32%**, and with significantly higher levels of online engagement with our work. Our largest campaign of the year, **30 Days Wild**, which challenges the public to connect with nature and wildlife during every day in June, saw a **29% increase** in 'campaigners', with **3.1k** sign-ups compared to 2.2k in 2019. Similarly, our website engagement increased dramatically, helped by the launch of our first **'Badger Cam'**, a great addition to our live webcams, which are essential to connecting people to nature regardless of mobility and accessibility constraints.

We also engaged in more lobbying. Over **150** letters were sent to Essex MPs by members of the public, coordinated by us as part of our **Wilder Future** campaign, which urged MPs to vote for a strong Environment Bill that puts wildlife at its heart.



The good, the bad and the ugly

Overall, 2019 was a good year, but we aren't perfect. It hasn't been possible to deliver on all of the plans we set out in our Annual Report in 2018, so in the spirit of openness, here is a quick summary of the **good**, the **bad**, and the **ugly**.

The good

Top of our list was to develop a compelling new Strategic Plan for the period 2020-25. Our new strategy was signed off by Board at the end of the year and has already mobilised the whole Trust with a set of coherent goals and principles. We also planned to appoint a Director of Operations to enable our Chief Executive to focus on the national picture and external partnerships rather than the day to day operations of the Trust. We recruited a fantastic Director who joined us in September 2019 and has already made a big impact.

We planned to work with five other Wildlife Trusts to deliver Defra's Nature Friendly Schools programme in areas of high social deprivation. This is well underway. Another key commitment in 2018 was to continue our programme of cultural change at the Trust, working with Best Companies to assess our progress, which we've done to great effect.

The bad

Or at least, the not-so-good.

We know that good governance is at the heart of a successful organisation. With this in mind, we committed to undergoing a full governance review, including Board, constitutions, key documentation and committee functions. This was delayed in 2019 but has been completed in 2020. More on this in next year's Impact Report.

We had also hoped to make greater progress with the rebuilding of the Langdon Visitor Centre using a postcode-specific grant from the Veolia Pitsea Marshes Maintenance Trust, but there have been a series of delays. We have learnt a lot in the process and have introduced a new Project Management Framework. In addition, we intended to develop a range of key marketing documents to support the Strategic Plan by the end of the year, covering communications, membership and fundraising. Although all of these areas are performing, it has not been possible to produce updated strategies.

The ugly

One area of work that we committed to in 2018 is updating our interpretation and signage across our sites. Many of our site interpretation is in a state of disrepair, and some of our reserves include branding that is many years old. Too many of our sites look unloved to our visitors. Although we have now started to make good progress, developments were slow in 2019, and this is one of our areas of focus for the next five years. This is even more urgent now that we have our fantastic new brand. We hope you will enjoy seeing your favourite sites given some love and attention soon.

Diversity is another area where we know we need to improve. The conservation sector is one of the least diverse in the UK. We know we need to do more in the coming year to better represent the social and cultural diversity of the people of Essex. We will be reviewing this area, including our Board, our staff, our volunteers and our members and supporters.

We couldn't do it without you

CORPORATE MEMBERS

2plan Wealth Management 3 Diamond Events Ltd A Duke & Son A G Fabrication Ltd A R Adams (Funeral Directors) Ltd Abbott Fasteners Ltd Accuro Environmental Ltd ACL (Adult Community Learning) Essex Activ8 Creative Actual Health and Safety Adam & Greenwood Funeral Home AdValue Marketing Affinity Water Ltd Alchemize Ltd Alexandra Anthony Limited ALM Training Services Alton Garden Centre Amixan Ltd Andrew Klocha (Tree Surgeons) Ltd Andy Rose Photography Anglia Courier Express (East Anglia) Limited Animal Health Co Ltd Ansell & Sons Aqua Environmental Services Limited AF Maintenance Ash Associates Ltd Ashby & Croft Ltd Ashwells Reclaimed Timber Ltd Ashwyk Ltd Associate Enterprises Ltd Ayers & Cruiks B & M Barnes B.E.E Pest Control Backhouse Solicitors Bakers Of Danbury Ltd Barclays Bank PLC Basildon Borough Council Basildon Timber Battlesbridge Antiques Centre (The Old Granary) Benchmark Landscapes Ltd Bennetts (Brentwood) Limited BGA Architects Birkett Long Bighitt Blackdum & Co Ltd Blond Landscapes Ltd Blatella Films Ltd Bowling Garrard Electrical Ltd Braintree District Council Brents Of Brentwood Ltd Brett Aggregates Brewster Motors Essex Ltd Bright & Sons Ltd Brightest Fuels Ltd Brown & Brand Brown & Carroll (London) Ltd Building Link Ltd Burnt Mills Tyres Ltd C J Bardwell Ltd Cadman Construction Ltd Calor Gas Capel Court Plc Castle Point Borough Council CBD Pure Life CCE Group Ltd CEME Limited Channels Golf Club Ltd Chelmer Marquess Ltd Chelmsford City Council Chigboro' Fisheries Cipher Crystal Ltd City & Country Clacton On Sea Golf Club Clardion Group Ltd Cleancare International Clifford Brown & Grimsey Insurance Brokers Ltd CNG Business Advice T/A Smart Support Coachstop Coda Systems Ltd Colchester Borough Council Collier & Catchpole Limited Coke Stoves & Fireplaces Communications Software (Airline Systems) Limited Complete Intacare Hygiene Complete Locksmith Services Ltd Constable VAT Consultancy LLP Consult A Penguin Ltd Cooper Bros (Great Oakley) Ltd Corbin IT Consultancy Ltd Courts of Rayleigh Crane Building Management Services Ltd Creed Marketing Curtis Assemble & Test Ltd D & A Media Ltd D Chennells Ltd D H Industries Ltd D K Moriarty Ltd Danbury Fencing Ltd Dancing Grotto Daniel Bridge Photography Daniel Robinson & Sons Dataware Consultancy Centre Ltd Daws Heath Timber Ltd Dengie Crops Ltd DeVines Accountants Ltd Diamond Press Ltd Direct Solutions Downwell Demolition Ltd	DST E T Brown & Son Earthworks Eastwood Tile Warehouse Edmund Carr Effective Business Network eGenie Electrical Solutions Elissons Elm Horticulture Ltd Elm House Veterinary Centre Endeavour Drilling Ltd Energy Crop Solutions Ltd Enertech Solutions Ltd EOL IT Services EPC-Group UK Essex & Suffolk Insurance Brokers Essex & Suffolk Water PLC Essex Chambers of Commerce Essex County Council Environment & Economy Essex Digital Copiers Essex Mechanical Services Essex Memorials Limited Essex Reclamation Ltd Essex Salt Ltd Essex Security Services Ltd Estuary Housing Association Ltd European Refrigeration Ltd Express Environmental Solutions Ltd F H Ives Ltd F P Guiver & Sons Limited Fabulous BBQ Fanpac Ltd Fastsigns Ltd Fearnwood Products Fen Farm Caravan Site Fenn Wright Firstade Properties Ltd Firstdoor Design Fisco Tools Ltd Five Lakes Resort Flowline Ltd Fluid Business Group Frank Howard Tools & Fixings Ltd Franklin Group Fruel Ltd Gallagher Wind Farm Ltd Garden Designs and Landscapes Gardenature Limited Gardens of Peace Muslim Cemetery Trust Gemini Office Solutions Ltd George Thompson Ltd George Yard Shopping Centre Gill Scaffolding Ltd GIS Spatial Mapping Globalnet IT Innovations Ltd Globe Office Solutions Ltd Glorcroft Limited Goodmove Moving & Storage Limited Goody Burrell LLP Gower Brothers Ltd Grape Passions Ltd Grass Roof Company Grays Office Supplies Greetings Gripdeck Ltd Ground Control Ltd Growing Native Guardian Display Ltd Guardian Industrial Doors H Tibury & Son H W Wilson Ltd Hair & Son LLP Hairways (Hair & Beauty) Ltd Harlow Garden Services Limited Harwich Haven Authority Healthy Life Essex CIC Henderson & Taylor (PW) Ltd High Chelmer Shopping Centre Hi-Tec Europe Ltd Home Instead Senior Care Hoppings Softwood Products Plc HSQE Ltd Hugh Pearl Land Drainage Ltd Hunter & Sons Tree Services Hygiene Contracts Limited I D Corcoran Building Contractors Ltd Ian Brown General Insurance Brokers Ltd Ian Jewell Ian Wallbridge-Kar Co Ltd IDC Greenescapes Ltd Immervox Ltd Imparmark Infotec Consulting Ingrbourne Valley Ltd Intu Lakeside Ltd Islandbridge Properties Ltd J B Russell Engineers Ltd J E Tabor Farms Ltd J H Palmer J W Steele & Sons Ltd Jackie Spurr Consulting Ltd Janice Gooch Heritage Consultancy Javalin Network Services Ltd JKS Group Ltd John S Dunne Ltd K S Timber Ltd K Wickham Eng (UK) Ltd	Kaizen Consultancy Ltd Kelly Turkeys Ken Rush Associates Ltd Kieran Lucas Contractors Ltd Kiss Chase Creations L Holmes Dental Laboratory Langdon Hills Golf Club Lathcoats Farm Shop Laurie Wood Associates Ltd. Leisure Hire Marquess Ltd Lemon Fencing Ltd Liz Lake Associates Ltd Local Business Domination Locosoco London Gateway Networks Ltd London Southend Airport Co Ltd Loughton Town Council LSJ Engineering Ltd Lucy & Co Luft CelMap Lumic Limited LWFC&G Ltd M & G Group plc M Lucking & Sons Maldon District Council Maldon Golf Club Maldon Marine Ltd Maplewood Carpentry Ltd Marill Business Services Marks Hall Estate Marmi Ltd Martyn Lewis Chartered Accountant Martyn Pattie Architects & Designers MDM Timber Ltd Mears Websites Messrs. Tilbrook's Solicitor Metro Limited MHS Radiators Michael Clark Designs Milane Contract Services Ltd Mirror Door Systems Ltd Monthind Clean LLP Morley Riches & Ablewhite Mr Pink Ltd MRS Myomancy Ltd T/A Wiltshire Farm Foods MyWebHero Limited NC Appliance Repairs Ltd Navigator Terminals Thames Ltd Neil Smith FCCA Networking Essex New Holland Agriculture Nexus HR Consultancy Ltd Nicholls Law North Benfleet Hall Fishery North Essex Signs Ltd Oak View Landscapes Limited Office Needs (Essex) Ltd Old Park Meadow Natural Burial Ground Olympus Keymed Ltd One to One Personnel Ltd Opportunities Workshop Organisation for Responsible Businesses (ORB) Ossea Leisure Park P & P Maintenance Services Palmer Solicitors Peak Security Systems Ltd Peldon Hall Farms Perrywood Garden Centre & Nurseries Ltd Pest Defence Ltd PGM Carpentry Contractors Ltd PJR Communications Ltd Platt Rushton PLS Tax Solutions Plummer Electrical Engineering PMB Electrical Supplies Ltd PMR Solutions Ltd PMV Essex Ltd Port Flair Ltd Port of London Authority Port of Tilbury London Ltd Power Hygiene & Safety Product Ltd Premier Print & Promotions Ltd Prestige Conjoining Primussure Ltd Insuring Essex Growth Printing Corn Southend Priority Support Services Ltd Procam Agriculture Ltd Quadrant Security Services Land & Marine Ltd R & D Advisors UK Ltd R Gwinnett & Sons Raw Apple Communications Ltd Rawley Plant Ltd Rayleigh Town Council Raytel Group Ltd Red Cell Ltd Reginald O'Neil Dental Care Relish Revive Digital Media Reynolds Industrial Cleaning Ltd RHS Garden Hyde Hall Rimplas Riverside Nursery & Garden Centre Riverside Veterinary Group RL Solutions Ltd Robin Greatorex Wines	Rochford District Council Rochford Hundred Golf Club Rohan Chelmsford Romstar Limited Ronald Fletcher Baker Ltd Rose of Colchester Ltd Ruark Audio Ltd Ruggles & Jeffery Ltd RW & JR Burroughs S G Shields (Benfleet) Ltd S P Bardwell Ltd S Stibbards & Sons Ltd S. Carter & Son Safe Fire Protection Ltd Safety Assured Sally Parkinson Photography Santry Davis Sarah Green's Organics Scooter Store Ltd Scott Wallis Seeds Ltd Seafie Adventure/Miller Leisure Ltd Secret Hamper Seekay Horticultural Supplies SEB Insurance Brokers Shadowfax Technology Sheridan Accountancy Services Ltd Shipman Security Systems Ltd Sibbons Plant Hire Silver City Estates Ltd Simmons Printers Simul Systems Ltd Smith & O'Sullivan Ltd Solar Green Ltd Sooty Sweep Service Southend Timber Ltd Spains Hall Partnership Spring Lodge Veterinary Hospital Squabb Group Ltd SPBE Ltd Via Jovic Plant St Cedric School St Georges Pest Control Ltd Stansted Airport Ltd Stepwood Limited Stillwater Management Strix Editions Stubbers Adventure Centre Summerdale Veterinary Centre Swisher Sync Creative Systematics International Ltd T J Evers Ltd Talis Projects Ltd Tarmac Tendring District Council Thames Card Technology Ltd Thames Loose Leaf Thames Water Utilities Ltd The CME Personnel Consultancy The East Anglia Pass The Finishing Line Ltd The Full Works Ltd The Landscape Centre Limited The Maldon Garden Centre Ltd The Othona Community The Royals Shopping Centre The Safe House The Social Accelerators Limited The Trop Shop Therapy Life Centre Thomas York Thomsons THS Concepts Ltd Tim Grigsby Tim Moya Associates Timber Tec Tina Wing Photography TP's Car Clinic Trait Design Ltd Transcapse Tree Fella Ltd Trenitalia c2c Ltd Twister Solutions Ltd TWO Services Ltd UK Energy Management UK Power Networks Ltd Universal Image Systems Ltd Vanitorials Ltd Vaughan & Blyth (Construction) Limited Ventam Systems Ltd Veolia Environmental Services (UK) Plc VRIDIS Urban & Rural Ltd Waldegraves Farm Ltd WAVEDATA Ltd We Work Well Whirlidge & Nott Whittle & Partners LLP Wilkin & Sons Ltd Wilkins Kennedy LLP Willow Garden Day Nursery Wire Free Protection Ltd Witham Town Council Woodham Fenners Water Ski Club Woodhouse Engineering Wormell Plant Hire Wow Balloons Writtle University College
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FUNDERS

We are extremely grateful for the grants which have been received during 2019 from the following funders:

Ida Davis Foundation
Linley Wightman Shaw Foundation
Bartleet Family Fund

PROJECTS

The following funders have given grants towards projects that were active through 2019:

Stansted Airport Community Trust
Neighbourly Community Grants
TK Maxx
The Banister Charitable Trust
Veolia Pitsea Marshes Maintenance Trust
Veolia Pitsea Marshes Maintenance Trust
Anglia Water Trust
Chancery Gate / Crossrail Consortium
Environment Agency
Coop Local Community Funding 2019
Land of the Fanns
National Lottery Heritage Fund
Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund
Essex Community Foundation
The Banister Charitable Trust
Northwick Trust
North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group
Cory Environmental Trust in Colchester
Tesco Bags of Help

These lists are not exhaustive. **Essex Wildlife Trust** is very grateful to all its generous funders.

GIFT IN WILLS

In 2019, gift in Wills totalled a very generous **£1,014,000**. The wonderful foresight and kindness of these legators will help to enable us to increase our impact for wildlife conservation in Essex in coming years.

Miss Winifred Ruth Abbott
Mrs Daisy Barnes
Mrs Dorothy Joan Beal
Mrs Anne Dorothea Boggis-Rolfe
Mrs Christine Mary Cookson
Mr Anthony (Monty) Chatfield Cooper
Mrs Patricia June Corbin
Miss Iris Daphne Cotgrove
Mrs Winifred Emma Evans
Mr Henry Joseph Floyd
Mr Ken Hermon
Mr Arthur John Herring
Mr Arthur Stanley Hollands
Mr Norman John Iungius
Mrs Florence Violet King
Mrs Beryl Margaret Meadows
Mr William (Bill) John Norris
Miss Janet Ann Comyn Noyes
Mrs Jean Maureen Olive Pattie
Mrs Kathleen Marie Perrin
Mr Peter Charles Rumsey
Mrs Jean Doris Sclater
Mrs Jessie Rose Thom
Mrs Valerie Louise Thomas
Mrs Dorothy Elizabeth Watts

All gift in Wills and Deed of Variations, no mater what size, make a significant difference to what Essex Wildlife Trust can achieve and we are truly grateful to every single person.

Financial summary

Essex Wildlife Trust year ended 31 December 2019

Financial review

2019 was a strong year for the Trust financially. There was an operating surplus of almost £1 million, compared with a small loss in 2018, and long term investments performed well in strong markets to rise by £1.7m, more than recovering the losses of £0.8m seen in 2018. Total funds rose by £2.8m and had reached almost £30 million by the end of the year.

The improved operating surplus was partly the result of grant income received in the year for the Langdon Nature Discovery Centre. Legacy income also rose and the Trust’s two trading companies had a good year, contributing £0.5 million after their direct costs. This additional income allowed the Trusts to increase the amount it spent on its charitable activities in the year, with the results described elsewhere in this report.

2020 has got off to a very challenging start, with income from trading subsidiaries severely reduced during the COVID-19 lockdown, staff furloughed for several weeks and activity levels scaled back significantly. The strength of the Trust’s financial position has enabled it to withstand this shock, however. As the nation gets on top of this challenge, we look forward to resuming the pattern of growing our income so we can deliver ever-increasing benefits for wildlife in Essex in the coming decade.

Bob Holmes
Honorary Treasurer
Essex Wildlife Trust

Summary Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Income		
Donations and Legacies	3,721	2,545
Charitable Activities	2,084	2,062
Other Trading Activities	3,114	2,759
Income from Investments	469	450
Total Incoming Resources	9,388	7,816
Expenditure		
Charitable Activities	4,611	4,514
Raising Funds	3,801	3,421
Total Resources Expended	8,412	7,935
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	976	(119)
Net Gains / (Losses) on Investments	1,653	(830)
Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Adjustment	192	-
Net Movement in Funds	2,821	(949)
Funds Brought Forward	27,101	28,050
Funds Carried Forward	29,922	27,101

Summary Consolidated Balance Sheets	2019 £000's	2018 £000's
Tangible and Intangible Fixed Assets	12,961	12,962
Long Term Investments	12,423	10,554
Stocks	353	378
Debtors	2,077	1,860
Short Term Investments & Cash at Bank and in Hand	2,915	2,380
Creditors falling due within one year	(635)	(625)
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(172)	(408)
Total Net Assets	29,922	27,101
Designated Funds	5,383	4,578
General Funds	4,498	4,003
Total Unrestricted Funds	9,881	8,581
Restricted Funds	17,109	15,918
Endowment Funds	2,932	2,602
Total Funds	29,922	27,101

These are the summarised accounts. If you would like to view the full audited accounts in more detail, please go to www.essexwt.org.uk or request a copy from **Essex Wildlife Trust, Abbotts Hall Farm, Great Wigborough, Colchester, Essex CO5 7RZ.**

The accounts have been audited by Moore Kingston Smith LLP and received an unqualified audit opinion. They were approved by Board on 30 July 2020 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

The next decade

Our work at **Essex Wildlife Trust** and the commitment of our members has never been more important.

We must continue to work together to create a **Wilder Essex**. We want Essex to be a county rich in wildlife and the people of Essex to be connected to nature; the health of our county depends on it. This is not going to happen without significant planning and purpose.

We have therefore developed a new **Strategic Plan**. Given the scale of the challenges facing us with the climate crisis and the ecological crisis, the focus of our new strategy has to be impact. We need to be absolutely sure that the work we do makes the best use of the resources available to us and has the biggest impact on wildlife.

Our first priority is to **protect wildlife**. Our focus will not only be on protecting and restoring habitats, but also enhancing and creating them. We need to maximise the conservation value of our land and demonstrate wildlife gain across the county, making sure that our conservation practices have the greatest possible impact for wildlife and target the species and habitats that are most in need of our help.

Our second priority is to **inspire a lifelong love of nature**. Modern conservation must engage people beyond the conservation community; we cannot do it all ourselves. We need to mobilise the people of Essex to take individual and collective action. Our nature reserves and Nature Discovery Centres need to be places of wonder where visitors can enjoy great wildlife experiences and become committed wildlife supporters, like you, our members.

Our third priority is to be the most **effective organisation** we can be. The extent to which we can protect wildlife and inspire people will be determined by how well we operate as an organisation, and this requires constant review. We want to be the best conservation charity possible, and we want to ensure that you, as members, are recognised and appreciated, and can see a demonstrable return on your generosity and support.

This is the gauntlet that we’ve thrown down for ourselves. We look forward to **working together** over the next decade.

Nature needs you.
Your support is the lifeblood of our work.



Love **Essex** • Love **Wildlife**