

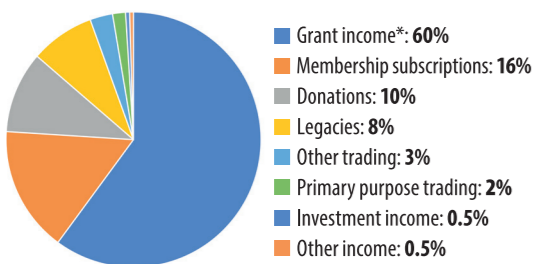
# Annual Review

# Highlights 2021/22

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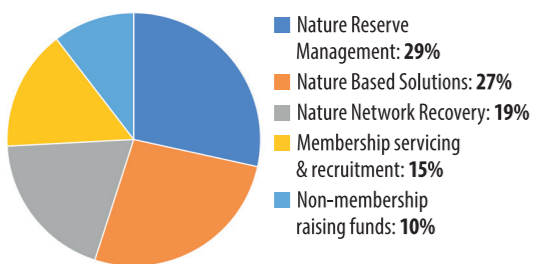
**The new Dorset Wildlife Trust strategy 'A Wilder Dorset by 2030' was introduced in 2021. Chief Executive, Brian Bleese reflects on how it has shaped our focus and achievements over the last year.**

## Income: £7.195 million

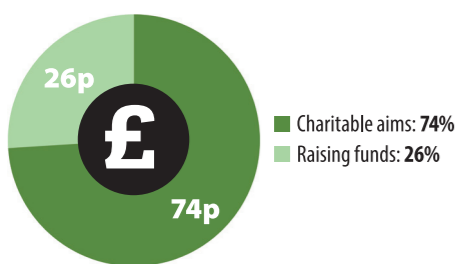


\*Grant income includes £3.12 million restricted capital grants for the acquisition of land at Wild Woodbury

## Expenditure: £3.231 million



## For every £ spent



The full annual report and accounts can be found at: [dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/how-we-are-run](http://dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/how-we-are-run)

**T**he new strategy builds on and defines our closer alignment with the Wildlife Trusts partnership nationally and sets us some ambitious goals. Most significantly we aim to see:

- **30% of land and sea managed in favour of nature by 2030**
- **1 in 4 people taking meaningful action for nature**
- **A net zero carbon Dorset Wildlife Trust by 2030.**

In support of our closer alignment with our partner Wildlife Trusts, we have adopted the new national logo and moved away from the early spider orchid after 60 years. This was well received by Dorset Wildlife Trust members, stakeholders and partners.

During the past year, there have been some notable successes in our mission to create a wilder Dorset by 2030. The acquisition of 170 hectares of land at Bere Regis has enabled the creation of our first landscape scale rewilding project at Wild Woodbury. As well as providing much needed space for nature, Wild Woodbury will support our people participation goals and offers a major opportunity to establish a significant rural economic regeneration initiative with the local community and nature at its heart.

The designation of Kingcombe and Powerstock nature reserves

as Kingcombe National Nature Reserve (NNR) recognised these sites as amongst the finest wildlife sites in the UK and was a great testament to the huge effort by volunteers and staff over several decades. Kingcombe NNR provides an excellent opportunity to link with neighbouring farmers and landowners to create a nature recovery network that will make a significant contribution to addressing the ecological crisis.

Volunteers remain vital to so many areas of our work and after a reduction in volunteering activity during 2020-2021 due to Covid-19, we have seen a resurgence throughout the year.

Looking forward, we face a testing year ahead. The world faces a period of major financial uncertainty with inflation predicted to rise to levels not seen for decades, major increases in fuel costs and significant impacts on supply chains. I would like to acknowledge and thank our members, volunteers, supporters and staff for their hard work and dedication to Dorset Wildlife Trust and Dorset's wildlife throughout a challenging year. We couldn't do it without you.

*Brian*

**Brian Bleese**  
Chief Executive  
Dorset Wildlife Trust

## Nature Reserves

Our 40 nature reserves are important biodiversity hubs contributing to nature recovery networks and providing vital space for nature. Our nature reserves management team work hard to maintain our nature reserves in the best possible condition for wildlife. Over the past year we have restored 6.6 hectares of heathland and woodland and 10 hectares of grassland, laid over 400 metres of hedgerows and created 300 square metres of lagoon habitat. Key species are also doing well on our reserves. Great crested newts have successfully bred on all six reserves where they have been monitored, record numbers of green winged and early spider orchids were found at Bracketts Coppice and Townsend nature reserves respectively and our reintroduced ladybird spiders have expanded their range by 50%.

## People Engagement

A new programme was introduced to enable members and supporters to play an active role in addressing the climate and ecological

**27,563**  
members  
in total

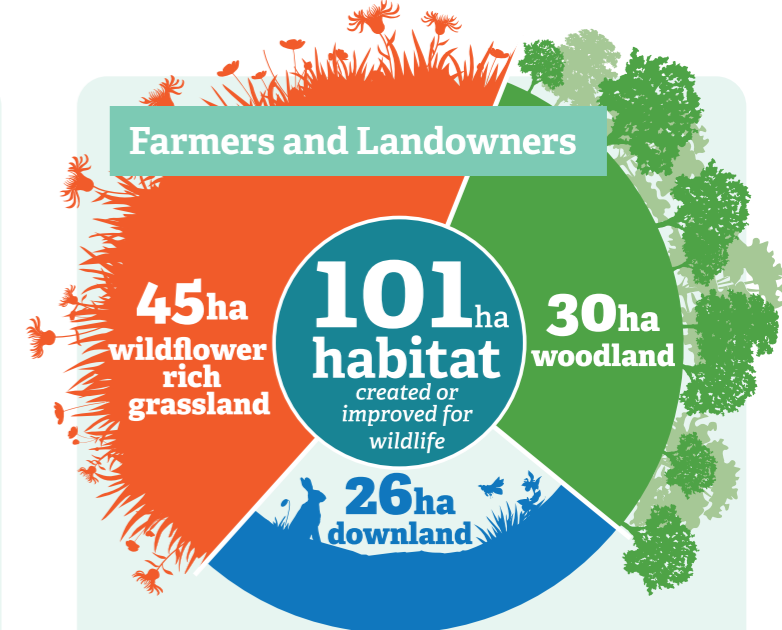
crises. The programme includes new volunteering opportunities and a new 'Wildlife Champions' initiative to enable more people to become ambassadors for wildlife in their communities.

**2,143**  
new memberships

## Marine Monitoring

Surveying and monitoring our marine environment is vital in supporting the management of Dorset's Marine Protected Areas and contributing to our aim to ensure that 30% of land and sea is managed in favour of nature by 2030. Through our Seasearch and Shoresearch programmes, Dorset Wildlife Trust staff and over 100 volunteers have carried out dozens of surveys collecting some 4,500 species records, improving our knowledge and understanding of these precious sites. Over 40 volunteers at our Fine Foundation Wild Seas Centre have also been monitoring marine-based activities and their impact.

## Farmers and Landowners



Farmers and landowners play a vital role in making space for nature in Dorset. Our liaison team has worked with over 140 farmers and landowners responsible for 13,290 hectares of land equivalent to 5% of Dorset's land area.

## Wild Rivers and Wetlands

Rivers and wetlands make a huge contribution to the quality of the natural environment. As well as providing important habitats for wildlife, healthy wetlands also provide our drinking water, support productive farming and help to manage and reduce the impact of flood and drought. Last year we restored 600 metres of rivers in West Dorset through the Greening West Dorset project, created 705 square metres of flood storage in the River Hooke catchment and removed 12 kilometres of invasive Himalayan balsam on the River Asker. Volunteers also make a major contribution to river restoration, helping to remove invasive species, install structural features and restore bankside habitat.

## Volunteering

