

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 July 2021



The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

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The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Reference and Administrative Details

The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees

Mr R Carr (appointed 23 February 2021)
Ms A Healey (appointed 23 February 2021)
Mr J Hewitt
Mr B Kram
Ms S Mason (appointed 23 February 2021)
Mr C Metherell (resigned 23 February 2021)
Dr G Port
Dr C Redfern
Mr C Scrimgeour
Dr J Simkin (resigned 23 February 2021)
Mr D Teasdale (resigned 23 February 2021)
Dr A Tindley
Mr M Turner
Mr R Vinkenooog

Key Management Personnel

Ms C Freeman, Director

Principal Office

Great North Museum: Hancock
Barras Bridge
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4PT

Charity Registration Number

526770

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
102 Grey Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6AG

Independent Examiner

Simon Brown BA ACA DChA
MHA Tait Walker
Bulman House
Regent Centre
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 3LS

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Reference and Administrative Details

President:

Position Vacant.

Honorary Treasurer:

Mr B Kram

Trustees Elected by Members (for 3 years):

2021: Mr R Carr, Ms A Healey, Mr B Kram, Ms S Mason, Dr C Redfern, Mr M Turner

2020: Mr J Hewitt, Mr C Metherell, Dr G Port, Mr C Scrimgeour, Dr A Tindley, Mr R Vinkenoog.

Trustees who stood down during 2020/21:

Dr J Simkin, Mr D Teasdale & Mr C Metherell.

Employees on 31 July 2021:

Ms C Freeman (Director), Mrs H Makepeace (Admin & Support Officer), Mrs J Holmes (Archivist)

Mr J Common (Communications Officer), Ms S Seeley (Administrative Assistant),

Ms C Rankin (Conservation Officer) and Mr J Dodsworth (Reserve Ranger)

Investment Committee:

Mr J Hewitt, Mr B Kram (Chair) and Dr C Redfern.

Great North Museum: Hancock Management Board:

Ms C Freeman

Gosforth Nature Reserve Management Committee:

Mrs J Black (Chair), Mr C Wren, Dr C Redfern, Mr J Hewitt, Mr A Atkinson and Mr C Castling.

Gosforth Nature Reserve Volunteer Warden:

Mr P Drummond

Library Committee:

Mrs M Evans, Dr L Jessop (Chair), Prof J Richards and Mr M Turner.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2021.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN) (a registered charity, number 526770) is constituted under the constitution of the society, originally dated 1961, as subsequently amended, most recently in 2021.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees are appointed by election at the annual meeting each year. They are "the persons having the general control and management of the administration of the charity."

Induction and training of trustees

All new trustees receive an induction to their role from the Director. Notes of meetings and any discussion papers are circulated outside meetings to ensure all trustees are properly briefed on issues facing the charity. Trustees are required to attend at least one meeting of Council per year.

Organisational structure

The general management and conduct of the affairs of NHSN, its property, the investment and expenditure of its funds and the enforcement of its constitution are the responsibility of an executive body called the Council, which is composed of the trustees of the charity. The management of the day-to-day running of NHSN is delegated by the Council to various committees, and/or employees.

Responsibility for the management of the Great North Museum: Hancock lies with Newcastle University who carry this out through the University Museum and Gallery Board, on which NHSN is represented.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Trustees' Report

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The objects of the Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN) are 'the encouragement by every means of the study of natural history in all its branches and the conservation of the natural environment in the North East of England, including its geology, flora and fauna'.

Established in 1829, NHSN is one of the oldest natural history societies in the country. We own the Great North Museum: Hancock and its many natural history and ethnographic collections and we lease them to Newcastle University, on whose behalf they are administered by Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums.

We manage the regionally important Gosforth Nature Reserve in Newcastle upon Tyne and maintain the best natural history library in the region and a significant archive collection. We focus on the study of the natural sciences, running citizen science projects, providing talks, field outings and education courses and publishing scientific papers in the Northumbrian Naturalist journal. We are also involved in carrying out nature conservation and research, mainly on our nature reserve and through our Sections, such as our Bird Ringing and Botany groups.

Most of our work is undertaken by NHSN members on a voluntary basis. We are a membership society and people pay an annual subscription to become a member.

In May 2021 a review of our strategic document 'Towards 2029' was undertaken by trustees, staff, and volunteers. This was brought forward from our planned review date of 2022, so that reflections and priorities could be adjusted post-pandemic and to involve newly appointed trustees in setting the direction of travel for NHSN.

Our aims consist of: -

- Increasing people's awareness of the region's natural history
- Increasing people's skills and knowledge in the protection of the region's natural history
- Growing and widening people's engagement and connection with nature
- Being a more effective local environmental charity

Vision and values

Our vision is that North East nature is appreciated, understood and protected by more people throughout the region. In pursuing our objects and aims in support of this vision we embrace the following values:

- We're locally focussed.

Passionate about North East nature.

- We're welcoming to all.

People are at the very heart of what we do.

- We help each other

We nurture.

- We inspire wonder.

Everyone's a naturalist.

- We encourage learning.

We share the wonder of natural history, together.

- We're connected.

We make a difference by working together.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Trustees' Report

Fundraising disclosures

The charity is required to report how it deals with fundraising from the public. The charity does not use a professional fundraiser or commercial participator to raise funds. Any monies raised direct from the public follows all guidelines set out by the Charity Commission and UK law in every respect. We respect the privacy and contact preferences of all public donors. In 2021 NHSN joined the Fundraising Regulator.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

A new chapter

2020 - 21 has been the second year of the implementation of our new ten-year strategy, Towards 2029, and, coinciding with the ever-increasing global challenge of climate change and the ecological emergency, this has provided a new-found impetus to our activities.

The Covid Pandemic

All good strategies must be flexible enough to adapt to changing circumstances and that flexibility has again been tested significantly during this year, in common with all organisations worldwide. While the pandemic caused us to slow down or postpone some elements of our strategic improvement plans, the response of staff, volunteers and members to the challenges continued to be outstanding. The chief impacts of the pandemic have been:

- the loss of face-to-face engagement with volunteers, members and supporters on courses, events and activities, most of which have had to be cancelled or postponed - a reminder of how people are at the heart of NHSN and highlighting the importance of the social and well-being function that NHSN provides.
- the importance of Gosforth Nature Reserve, which has proved its value as a source of tranquillity and calm for many people in these challenging times - due to the efforts of the 40 or so Volunteer Rangers welcoming visitors to the reserve.
- a whole-hearted embracing of digital technology with many volunteers and staff rising to the challenge of taking events and activities online, moving our publications online, commissioning and processing films and holding meetings digitally, including our second digital Annual Meeting in 2021.
- staff continuing to work at home rather than in the office, which they all sustained with good heart and inventiveness.
- a huge increase in visits to our website and social media outlets and an increase in our digital engagement with members and supporters.

Website views	259,350
Website unique visitors	156,569
Social media followers	13,867
Online talk views	24,510
Attendance on online courses	344

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Trustees' Report

Gosforth Nature Reserve

A huge thank you to 40 Volunteer Rangers that have assisted with welcoming visitors and encouraged wildlife sightings and the 20 Conservation Volunteers who have continued to carry out habitat management and repairs across the reserve. Thanks to financial support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, a new two storey Beck Hide was opened in December 2020, enabling social distancing and much improved wildlife watching opportunities. With the support of the Community Foundation a new timber information hut provided shelter to the Volunteer Rangers, who received professional uniforms funded by the William Leech Foundation.

Thanks to Northumbrian Water's Branch Out Fund important wetland habitats and species were protected with the construction of a new high-quality boardwalk through willow carr. Bird ringing, small mammal trapping and other wildlife monitoring activities were able to take place with adjustments to ensure that they were in line with government guidance. Open days and educational visits during the 2021 season did not take place because of the pandemic.

The latter half of the financial year saw the exciting development of the new Field Station at the reserve entrance. Thanks to the support of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, contractors Gilleards have constructed the new timber building. Dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers have worked in all weathers to progress ground preparation, construction of a new timber entrance boardwalk, access ramp and steps.

Learning and Engagement

The year has seen our key publications of North East Nature and Northumbrian Naturalist continue to improve with a wider range of contributing authors and improved design and production. As a result of lockdown the availability of these publications online has been enhanced and improved.

Our natural history digital talks on Friday evenings during the winter continued to be enhanced by the 1829 talks, a series of 15-minute talks given by early-stage research students and, subject to the constraints of lockdown, a range of field outings, talks and natural history education courses took place. Our sections including ornithology, botany, invertebrates, and earth sciences have continued wide and varied programmes of events, talks and activities. We continue to investigate new ways to engage people across the North East with our sections and this year, successfully piloted a new Botany Facebook group in collaboration with ERIC North East.

While the restrictions of lockdown curtailed our events, field outings and courses, where possible these have been continued on line and an impressive array of new material has been made available through our website and social media.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Trustees' Report

Nature in the North East

NHSN has continued with its core objectives of encouraging the study and protection of nature throughout the region and has done so in many different ways. Some of these activities are highlighted below.

We continued North East Bee Hunt during the summer of 2021 which again proved very successful with 4,653 records from 184 participants.

We launched a new citizen science project, the North East Ladybird Spot, during spring 2021. This proved successful with 1,413 sightings shared from 148 participants.

We launched a new iRecord recording portal to capture biological records around Gosforth Nature Reserve.

We have built on a long tradition of representing the interests of nature on a range of projects and initiatives, encompassing the study and protection of nature across the North East including the Ouseburn Catchment Project, Tyne Kittiwake Partnership, GNM: Hancock Museum Board, Newcastle Parks and Allotments Trust and Newcastle University Citizen Science Network.

We increased collaboration with key partners including the Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC) and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI). Befitting NHSN's status as a regional forum for naturalists, our e-news now shares the work of other organisations across the North East. Examples include Urban Green Newcastle, Durham Wildlife Trust and Save Newcastle Wildlife.

The Dickinson Memorial Fund supported Embleton Parish Council in their work to protect and enhance the biodiversity of Embleton Quarry Local Nature Reserve.

Social and Cultural History

Our unique library and archive collections have been showcased through our on-line catalogue and via social media posts. Margaret Rebecca Dickinson artwork was made more accessible through the JSTOR digital library.

Despite the disruption caused by the museum closure, we were able to complete the professional assessment of our collections undertaken by heritage consultant Janice Tullock, working with volunteers and staff to shape the future of the collections.

Governance

A specific Governance Improvement Working Group has continued to progress the adopted Governance Improvement Action Plan. Progress so far includes streamlining some of our committee structures, improving the effectiveness and diversity of Council, succession planning and updating our Constitution at the AGM in February 2021.

During the year, three of our long-standing trustees, Chris Metherell, Derek Teasdale and Janet Simkin, have retired and we owe them a special vote of thanks for their contributions as trustees over the years.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Trustees' Report

Financial review

The financial position for the period shows a total unrestricted surplus of income over expenditure of £17,667 with a £49,935 surplus on restricted funds. Included within unrestricted funds is the current year realised and unrealised gain of £106,956 in respect of investment assets.

At the year end reserves carried forward are: endowment funds of £54,332, restricted funds of £109,042 and unrestricted funds of £900,467.

The trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

The Financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019), conform to current statutory requirements and comply with the charity's governing documents.

Key Management Personnel

The trustees, who give their time freely, none of whom have received remuneration in the year, have considered who are the Key Management Personnel (KMP) of the charity, as noted in the Reference and Administration section. Together with the board, these KMP are those in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the activities of the charity on a day-to-day basis. The pay of the KMP is reviewed annually and normally increased in accordance with average earnings. The trustees benchmark against pay levels of other charities and similar organisations within the sector and the region. Pay levels are set using this information together with the budget and forecast information, ensuring that the charity can afford any proposed increases. The trustees then agree any uplift to remuneration

Policy on reserves

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds, excluding those invested or tied up within fixed assets, which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level which equates to at least six months unrestricted expenditure, which would equate to an approximate range of £100,000 to £125,000. This provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration and support costs and to ensure all on-going projects can continue.

The free reserves (including designated reserves) of the charity are currently £129,515 (2020: £206,407). NHSN holds investments of £696,458, whose interest provides the charity with core funding income. In addition, it provides security in the unlikely event that NHSN has to resume the management of the Great North Museum: Hancock and its collections, which it owns.

Investment policy and objectives

All investment transactions during the year under review have been carried out in accordance with the trustees' powers.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Trustees' Report

Plans for future periods

Having embarked on the initial implementation of our new business plan adopted as part of the Towards 2029 strategy, we continue to be committed to inspire more people, and encourage a wider range of people, to study and protect nature in the North East. In the light of this our priorities under the business plan remain threefold:

- to improve facilities and wildlife conservation at Gosforth Nature Reserve, in particular to enhance our ability to welcome increased educational visits by young people.
- to strengthen and enhance our communications about the region's natural history, including improving and developing our range of courses, events and citizen science initiatives.
- to enhance the social and cultural heritage of natural history, supporting the knowledge and role of natural history throughout the region, making greater use of our library and archive collections.

It is thanks to the collective support of so many members, supporters, volunteers, trustees, funders, donors and staff, that NHSN has thankfully been able to emerge from the challenges of the pandemic. We are in a strong position to strengthen and widen engagement for North East nature in the future.

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The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Trustees' Report

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. 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;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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 annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr J Hewitt
Trustee

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2021 which are set out on pages 12 to 30.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of The Natural History Society Of Northumbria you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the The Natural History Society Of Northumbria's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since The Natural History Society Of Northumbria's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of The Natural History Society Of Northumbria as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
Simon Brown BA ACA DChA
ICAEW
Bulman House
Regent Centre
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 3LS

Date:.....

MHA Tait Walker is a trading name of Tait Walker LLP.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	110,503	93,400	-	203,903	195,846
Charitable activities	3	37,199	-	-	37,199	62,200
Investment income	4	17,412	-	-	17,412	20,872
Other income	5	-	-	-	-	3,801
Total Income		<u>165,114</u>	<u>93,400</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>258,514</u>	<u>282,719</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	(50,303)	-	-	(50,303)	(42,244)
Charitable activities	6	(204,100)	(43,465)	-	(247,565)	(198,724)
Total Expenditure		<u>(254,403)</u>	<u>(43,465)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(297,868)</u>	<u>(240,968)</u>
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		<u>106,956</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,956</u>	<u>(51,038)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		17,667	49,935	-	67,602	(9,287)
Gross transfers between funds		<u>(14,042)</u>	<u>14,042</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		3,625	63,977	-	67,602	(9,287)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		<u>896,842</u>	<u>45,388</u>	<u>54,332</u>	<u>996,562</u>	<u>1,005,849</u>
Total funds carried forward	17	<u>900,467</u>	<u>109,365</u>	<u>54,332</u>	<u>1,064,164</u>	<u>996,562</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		141,156	54,690	-	195,846
Charitable activities		62,200	-	-	62,200
Investment income	4	20,872	-	-	20,872
Other income		3,801	-	-	3,801
Total income		228,029	54,690	-	282,719
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(42,244)	-	-	(42,244)
Charitable activities		(198,213)	(511)	-	(198,724)
Total expenditure		(240,457)	(511)	-	(240,968)
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		(51,038)	-	-	(51,038)
Net (expenditure)/income		(63,466)	54,179	-	(9,287)
Gross transfers between funds		10,434	(10,434)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(53,032)	43,745	-	(9,287)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		949,874	1,643	54,332	1,005,849
Total funds carried forward	17	896,842	45,388	54,332	996,562

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

(Registration number: 526770)
Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	236,318	84,242
Investments	12	<u>696,458</u>	<u>660,525</u>
		<u>932,776</u>	<u>744,767</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	92,514	31,747
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>47,501</u>	<u>227,707</u>
		140,015	259,454
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(8,627)</u>	<u>(7,659)</u>
Net current assets		<u>131,388</u>	<u>251,795</u>
Net assets		<u>1,064,164</u>	<u>996,562</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds		54,332	54,332
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	17	109,365	45,388
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>900,467</u>	<u>896,842</u>
Total funds	17	<u>1,064,164</u>	<u>996,562</u>

The financial statements on pages 12 to 30 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr J Hewitt
Trustee

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The functional currency is sterling.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern

The trustees have considered the financial position in light of the ongoing situation in regards to the Covid-19 virus and on conclusion of this work, consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Estimation uncertainty and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported.

Management have provided depreciation, prepayments, accruals and other cut-off adjustments. Whilst management believe that these estimates and judgements are accurate, there is every likelihood that they will not be exact.

These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Income and endowments

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Donations and legacies

Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.

Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established. Where a legacy is notified to the charity prior to the year end, it is recognised as income if it is received before the accounts are approved.

Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are due each year in advance with no refunds available from the date in which a member originally joined. The society recognises this income in full, once received at the later date of cleared bank or due date.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Donated services and facilities

Where services or facilities are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from our suppliers, this benefit is included in the financial statements at its fair value unless its fair value cannot be reliably measured, then at the cost to the donor or the resale value of goods that are to be sold.

Investment income

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities. Refer to the support costs note for further information on the basis for allocation.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £200 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Lake Lodge	2% straight line
Equipment	10%-20% straight line
Hides	10% straight line

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of is established when there is objective evidence that the will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted funds are the free funds of the charity to use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the charity's objectives. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

The charity has a single permanent endowment fund which is made up from the capital donated by the living relatives to the Dickinson Memorial Fund. This capital is not to be utilised, but the income generated from it is allocated to the Dickinson Memorial Designated Income Fund.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a penison fund and the entity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	11,782	-	11,782
Legacies	4,000	-	4,000
Gift aid reclaimed	9,195	-	9,195
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	12,174	93,400	105,574
Subscriptions	72,641	-	72,641
Event income	711	-	711
	<u>110,503</u>	<u>93,400</u>	<u>203,903</u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	7,342	300	7,642
Legacies	60,501	-	60,501
Gift aid reclaimed	11,923	-	11,923
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	-	54,390	54,390
Subscriptions	61,012	-	61,012
Event income	378	-	378
	<u>141,156</u>	<u>54,690</u>	<u>195,846</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Courses	10,978	10,978	31,627
Publications	256	256	4,476
GPNR	12,704	12,704	13,095
Great North Museum: Hancock	13,261	13,261	13,002
	<u>37,199</u>	<u>37,199</u>	<u>62,200</u>

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2021	2020
		£	£
Income from dividends;			
UK equity dividends	17,412	17,412	20,341
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Bank interest receivable	-	-	531
	<u>17,412</u>	<u>17,412</u>	<u>20,872</u>

5 Other income

		Total	Total
		2021	2020
		£	£
Recharges		-	3,801
		<u>-</u>	<u>3,801</u>

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Raising funds expenditure

Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2021	2020
		£	£
Wages & salaries	32,293	32,293	25,489
Pension costs	1,082	1,082	845
Insurance	154	154	723
General Expenses	185	185	230
Office costs	6,651	6,651	6,378
Depreciation	4,737	4,737	3,541
	<u>45,102</u>	<u>45,102</u>	<u>37,206</u>

Charitable investment management costs

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2021	2020
		£	£
Investment Fees	5,201	5,201	5,038
	<u>5,201</u>	<u>5,201</u>	<u>5,038</u>

£50,303 (2020: £42,244) of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £Nil (2020: £Nil) to restricted funds.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total
	Designated £	General £	£	2021 £
Charitable activities	9,091	177,548	43,465	230,104
Support costs	-	17,461	-	17,461
	<u>9,091</u>	<u>195,009</u>	<u>43,465</u>	<u>247,565</u>
	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total
	Designated £	General £	£	2020 £
Charitable activities	5,193	179,128	511	184,832
Support costs	-	13,892	-	13,892
	<u>5,193</u>	<u>193,020</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>198,724</u>

£195,009 (2020: £193,020) of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds, £9,091 (2020: £5,193) to designated funds and £43,465 (2020: £511) to restricted funds.

Breakdown of charitable activities expenditure

	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries and National Insurance	105,685	83,419
Pension costs	3,542	2,767
Archive costs	180	227
Courses	4,570	19,144
Gosforth Nature Reserve	31,314	17,180
Repairs and maintenance	-	1,000
Great North Museum: Hancock	5,000	5,000
Library costs	250	1,394
Transactions	17,919	12,675
Partnership and Consultancy Costs	17,461	7,335
Conservation and Research	1,742	1,267
Events Expenditure	266	3,498
Marketing and Publicity	18,046	6,513
Staff and Volunteer Expenses	673	1,670
Premises	309	1,445
Communications and IT	5,953	6,205
General expenses	7,720	7,010
Depreciation	9,474	7,083
	<u>230,104</u>	<u>184,832</u>

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Support costs allocated to other expenditure

	Governance costs £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Staff costs	9,102	9,102	7,182
Premises	52	52	241
Communications & IT	992	992	1,034
General office	1,287	1,287	1,168
Governance	4,449	4,449	2,580
Depreciation	1,579	1,579	1,180
Legal	-	-	507
	<u>17,461</u>	<u>17,461</u>	<u>13,892</u>

The charity allocates costs direct to activities as far as possible, then identifies the remaining costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Having identified the governance costs, the remaining support costs together with governance costs are apportioned between the key charitable activities undertaken. The charity has therefore split staff costs, premises costs, communications and IT costs, general office costs and depreciation accordingly with 30% of the costs allocated against raising funds, 60% identified as direct and the residual 10% being support. Furthermore, accountancy and legal fees are 100% charged to governance.

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Dr A G Lunn (resigned 20/03/2020)

£nil (2020: £1,008) for the reimbursement of course tutor fees to Dr A G Lunn during the year.

Mr D Teasdale (resigned 23/02/2021)

£65.25 (2020: £4,130) for the reimbursement of course tutor fees to Mr D Teasdale during the year.

Dr J Simkin (resigned 23/02/2021)

£391.50 (2020: £2,600) for the reimbursement of course tutor fees to Dr J Simkin during the year.

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	146,785	115,860
Pension costs	4,919	3,843
	<u>151,704</u>	<u>119,703</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2021 No	2020 No
Employees	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £44,359 (2020 - £42,667).

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2021 £	2020 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>2,640</u>	<u>2,580</u>

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Lake Lodge £	Hides £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 August 2020	45,389	60,302	49,408	155,099
Additions	-	167,261	605	167,866
At 31 July 2021	<u>45,389</u>	<u>227,563</u>	<u>50,013</u>	<u>322,965</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 August 2020	13,749	33,882	23,226	70,857
Charge for the year	802	7,621	7,367	15,790
At 31 July 2021	<u>14,551</u>	<u>41,503</u>	<u>30,593</u>	<u>86,647</u>
Net book value				
At 31 July 2021	<u>30,838</u>	<u>186,060</u>	<u>19,420</u>	<u>236,318</u>
At 31 July 2020	<u>31,640</u>	<u>26,420</u>	<u>26,182</u>	<u>84,242</u>

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

12 Fixed asset investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Other investments	<u>696,458</u>	<u>660,525</u>

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 August 2020	660,525	660,525
Additions	132,039	132,039
Disposals	(187,257)	(187,257)
Revaluation	<u>91,151</u>	<u>91,151</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>696,458</u>	<u>696,458</u>
Net book value		
At 31 July 2021	<u>696,458</u>	<u>696,458</u>
At 31 July 2020	<u>660,525</u>	<u>660,525</u>

All investments shown above are held at valuation.

Listed investments

The aggregate market value of listed investments is £696,458 (2020: £660,525).

Financial assets held at fair value

Realised gains and losses are calculated based on the market value brought forward plus any additions in the year.

The Trustees believe that the carrying value of the investments is supported by their underlying net assets.

The investment portfolio includes the following holdings which represent more than 5% of the market value of the portfolio:

Artemis FD Managers US Select - 5.4% (2020: <5%)
Twentyfour Global Corporate Bond I - <5% (2020: 6.3%)
Pimco Global Advisors Select UK Income BD Instl Inc Nav - <5% (2020: 5.4%)
Vanguard Inv Services UK Government BD - <5% (2020: 6.6%)
JP Morgan Funds Limited IS Equity Income - 5.5% (2020: 5.7%)
Vanguard Funds PLC S&P 500 UCITS ETC USD - <5% (2020: 5.7%)

All investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange.

The historical cost of such investments is £566,145 (2020: £607,479).

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

13 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	-	3,428
Prepayments	4,639	8,319
Accrued income	87,875	20,000
	<u>92,514</u>	<u>31,747</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	3,464	64
Accruals	5,163	7,595
	<u>8,627</u>	<u>7,659</u>

15 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £4,919 (2020: £3,843).

16 Commitments

Capital commitments

The total amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was £54,752 (2020 - £1,691).

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 August 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 July 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
General Fund	552,512	164,599	(245,282)	(19,674)	106,956	559,111
Designated						
James Alder Memorial Fund	1,763	-	-	-	-	1,763
Dickinson Memorial Income Fund	615	-	(3,454)	2,839	-	-
Maintenance Fund	1,470	-	-	-	-	1,470
TB Short Memorial Fund	184,786	-	-	-	-	184,786
Grace Hickling Memorial Fund	149,382	-	-	-	-	149,382
Life Membership Fund	4,366	-	-	(411)	-	3,955
Lantern Fund	1,948	515	(5,667)	3,204	-	-
	<u>344,330</u>	<u>515</u>	<u>(9,121)</u>	<u>5,632</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>341,356</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>896,842</u>	<u>165,114</u>	<u>(254,403)</u>	<u>(14,042)</u>	<u>106,956</u>	<u>900,467</u>
Restricted funds						
Archives	643	-	(70)	-	-	573
Heritage Emergency Grant	43,445	-	(33,370)	10,114	-	20,189
Towards 2029 HLF	-	-	(5,828)	5,828	-	-
John Spendan Lewis Foundation	1,300	-	-	-	-	1,300
North East LEP Community Foundation	-	91,500	(4,197)	-	-	87,303
	-	1,900	-	(1,900)	-	-
	<u>45,388</u>	<u>93,400</u>	<u>(43,465)</u>	<u>14,042</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,365</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>45,388</u>	<u>93,400</u>	<u>(43,465)</u>	<u>14,042</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,365</u>
Endowment funds						
Permanent						
Dickinson Memorial Capital Funds	54,332	-	-	-	-	54,332
Total funds	<u>996,562</u>	<u>258,514</u>	<u>(297,868)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,956</u>	<u>1,064,164</u>

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Designated Funds

- The Gosforth Nature Reserve Restoration Fund was created from a donation from Sir James and Lady Steel for lake rejuvenation.
- James Alder Memorial Fund is for the publication of a new history of the Society.
- Dickinson Memorial Capital Fund was created from a capital donation from living relatives. The capital may not be utilised but income generated is credited to the designated income fund.
- Habitat Maintenance at GPNR Fund, has been designated by the trustees because they believe this is the amount they still need to spend on habitat maintenance at GPNR, from funds received in the year.
- Archive Fund has been established by the trustees to match a donation towards the archive collection.
- Maintenance Fund has been established by the trustees to pay for the maintenance of any society assets.
- Life Membership Fund - The Life Members Fund consists of amounts received in payment of life subscriptions and they are released to unrestricted funds over a period of 20 years in equal annual instalments.
- Lantern Fund - The Lantern Fund, set up in 2018, is to enable young people to experience nature for the first time and to support young naturalists. The funds have been designated by the trustees.

Included within unrestricted funds are the TB Short Memorial Fund and the Grace Hickling Memorial Fund, both of which are Expendable Endowment Funds. The funds were created from legacies and are invested in accordance with the Trustee Investment Acts and are subject only to expenditure for special projects. These funds are classified as Expendable endowments.

Endowment Funds

The Permanent Endowment fund, the Dickinson Memorial Fund, was established in 2007 by the trustees to create a permanent visible memorial to a great supporter of the society. It was decided that all past and future gifts from the relatives of Tony Dickinson and the applied gift aid should be added to this fund. The income generated is to be designated to the Dickinson Memorial Income Fund and expenditure offset for projects agreed at the discretion of the trustees.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Restricted Funds

- Archives Fund is made up from donations that are made specifically for the Archives activities.
- Toward 2029 Fund - A restricted fund consisting of grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to support the Resilient Heritage 17 month project.
- Heritage Emergency Grant - A restricted fund consisting of a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support activities in response to the Covid 19 pandemic.
- John Spedan Lewis Foundation - A restricted fund consisting of a grant to fund repairs to the bird ringing hut and boardwalk at Gosforth Nature Reserve to ensure the continuation of ornithological research and study.
- Community Foundation - A grant to supply a new timber information hut to provide shelter for Volunteer Rangers.
- North East Local Enterprise Partnership - A grant to construct a new timber Field Station at Gosforth Nature Reserve.

Transfers

During the year the company transferred £14,042 from unrestricted funds into restricted funds. This included a transfer of £5,828 into restricted fund Toward 2029 HLF to cover the expenditure incurred, and a transfer of £10,114 into restricted fund Heritage Emergency Grant to bring the restricted funds in line with the net book value of corresponding fixed assets at year end. There was an additional transfer of £1,900 out of restricted fund Community Foundation to cover expenditure that had been posted to general unrestricted funds.

The Natural History Society Of Northumbria

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds at 31 July 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	128,826	107,492	-	236,318
Fixed asset investments	642,126	-	54,332	696,458
Current assets	138,142	1,873	-	140,015
Current liabilities	(8,627)	-	-	(8,627)
Total net assets	900,467	109,365	54,332	1,064,164
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds at 31 July 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	84,242	-	-	84,242
Fixed asset investments	606,193	-	54,332	660,525
Current assets	214,066	45,388	-	259,454
Current liabilities	(7,659)	-	-	(7,659)
Total net assets	896,842	45,388	54,332	996,562

19 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 August 2020 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 July 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	227,707	(180,206)	47,501
Net debt	227,707	(180,206)	47,501
	At 1 August 2019 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 July 2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	196,118	31,589	227,707
Net debt	196,118	31,589	227,707

20 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.