Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 July 2022



Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1 to 2
Trustees' Report	3 to 10
Independent Examiner's Report	11
Statement of Financial Activities	12
Statement of Financial Activities	13
Balance Sheet	14
Notes to the Financial Statements	15 to 31



Reference and Administrative Details

The trustees serving during the ye	ar and since the year end were as follows:
Chair	Dr Gordon Port
Trustees	Mr Rob Carr
	Ms Alexandra Healey
	Mr Jonathan Hewitt
	Mr Brian Kram
	Ms Sammy Mason
	Dr Gordon Port
	Dr Christopher Redfern
	Mr Cain Scrimgeour
	Dr Annie Tindley
	Mr Michael Turner
	Mr Rinke Vinkenoog
	Mrs Melanie Reed (appointed 15 March 2022)
Key Management Personnel	Ms Clare 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 Azets Audit Services Bulman House Regent Centre Gosforth Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3LS

Reference and Administrative Details

President:

Position Vacant.

Honorary Treasurer: Mr Brian Kram

Trustees Elected by Members (for 3 years):

2021: Mr Rob Carr, Ms Alexandra Healey, Mr Brian Kram, Ms Sammy Mason, Dr Chris Redfern, Mr Michael Turner 2020: Mr Jonathan Hewitt, Dr Gordon Port, Mr Cain Scrimgeour, Dr Annie Tindley, Mr Rinke Vinkenoog.

Trustees who stood down during 2021/22:

Dr Janet Simkin, Mr Derek Teasdale & Mr Chris Metherell.

Employees on 31 July 2022:

Ms Clare Freeman (Director), Mrs Hazel Makepeace (Admin & Support Officer), Mr James Common (Senior Naturalist), Ms Sarah Seeley (Membership Support), Mr Jack Butin (Nature Ranger), Ms Julie Ross (Nature Ranger) and Ms Ellie Coleman (Naturalist).

Investment Committee:

Mr Jonathan Hewitt, Mr Brian Kram (Chair) and Dr Chris Redfern.

University Museum and Gallery Board:

Ms Clare Freeman

Gosforth Nature Reserve Advisory Group:

Mrs Julia Black (Chair), Mr Chris Wren, Dr Chris Redfern, Mr Jonathan Hewitt, Mr Andy Atkinson and Mr Chris Castling.

Gosforth Nature Reserve Volunteer Warden:

Mr Paul Drummond

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2022.

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 the Director.

NHSN owns the Great North Museum: Hancock and its many natural history and ethnographic collections. These are leased to Newcastle University, on whose behalf they are administered by Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums. NHSN is represented on the University Museum and Gallery Board.



Trustees' Report

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Established in 1829, NHSN is one of the oldest natural history societies in the country. The objects of 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'.

We manage the regionally important Gosforth Nature Reserve in Newcastle upon Tyne and maintain the best natural history library collection 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 Specialist 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.

Our updated organisational plan, Action for North East Nature outlines our overall vision: 'Many more people and a wider range of people enjoying, understanding and protecting North East nature'.

NHSN recognises the challenges of the climate and ecological emergency, so set a more ambitious goal:

To engage 25,000 people a year to take action for North East nature.

Our aims consist of:

• Growing and widening people's engagement and connection with nature wherever they are,

- especially young people
- Growing people's awareness and enjoyment of North East natural history
- Growing people's skills and knowledge of North East natural history
- Ensuring NHSN thrives, sustaining our size and growing our impact.

Vision and values

In pursuing our objects and aims in support of this vision we have updated our values:

• We're locally focussed. We are a local independent wildlife charity, led by volunteers, celebrating all aspects of North East natural history – the nature, the naturalists and organisations and the culture, such as wildlife art and nature notebooks

• We're welcoming to all. Since we formed in 1829 our purpose has been to widen and grow a passion for North East natural history by welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities

• We help each other. We listen and respond to people's needs and aspirations and help fulfil their potential by tailoring and improving what we offer across the region.

• We inspire wonder. We engage people to discover and nurture their passion for natural history through a constantly evolving programme of events, publications and more.

• We encourage learning. Our core purpose is to help people understand and protect nature through gaining skills and knowledge through lifelong learning and first-hand experience of nature.

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.

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. NHSN continues to register with the Fundraising Regulator and comply with their code of practice.

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: Action for North East Nature

2021 - 22 has been the first year of the implementation of our new organisational plan, Action for North East Nature, responding to the ever-increasing global challenge of climate change and the ecological emergency. Membership continued to grow with 2,558 memberships by the year end, an increase of 274 from last year. NHSN continued to develop digital opportunities as for many members, supporters and individuals, digital events were still preferred following the covid pandemic.



Trustees' Report

Celebrating nature conservation and citizen science

NHSN made exciting progress to develop initiatives and collaborations to reach a wider range of people. This included working with Urban Green Newcastle, Durham Wildlife Trust, Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC) and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI). Particular highlights were celebrating 150 years of science with Newcastle University. Many earlier members of NHSN were involved in the establishment of the university and subsequent science teaching. Further engagement activities included working with Newcastle City Council Mental Health awareness initiative, Mammalweb from Durham University, British Ecological Society, National Trust at Gibside, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Land of Oak and Iron and Prudhoe Spetchells Conservation Group.

Our Specialist Groups including ornithology, botany, invertebrates, and earth sciences have continued wide and varied programmes of events, talks and activities. 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-career researchers. Approximately 68 events, 45 talks and 22 natural history education courses took place.

An impressive array of new material has been made available through our website and social media, with the YouTube channel film views totalling 28,000 in the year. NHSN's combined social media following stood at 15,072. Of these, 8,460 were on Facebook and 3,580 on Twitter. Instagram has 1,519 followers and YouTube has 1,417. LinkedIn is a new platform for NHSN and currently only has 96 followers. We were delighted to be part of the Media Trust, Communicating Climate programme, one of 20 charities nationally. This training was perfectly timed in line with our new organisational plan and will continue to be implemented at this time of climate change and ecological loss.

Our regional citizen science programme continued to grow. The North East Bee Hunt and North East Ladybird Spot achieved totals of 2,851 and 2,349 records, by 126 and 117 participants respectively, and an additional 190 children engaged with the projects. We launched a new citizen science project, Discovering North East Orchids, during spring 2022. This proved successful with 1,604 records shared from 92 participants.

In line with our member's aspirations and local need our work supporting young naturalists has further developed this year. Our Lantern Fund distributed 660 nature activity bags to young people who have few opportunities to connect with nature. Thanks to local charities who helped with distribution, including NE Youth, West End Refugee Service, the Comfrey Project, Being Woman Ashington and Gateshead Salvation Army. Thanks to Alpkit Foundation and for members who donated to the Lantern Fund appeal we were able to reach more young people.

Thanks to the support of the National Heritage Lottery Fund a new initiative was launched. 'How to be a Young North East naturalist' engaged 200 children, from five primary schools to connect with nature.

'Your Plan A' for North East Nature project received funding from Awards for All and the Community Foundation for Tyne and Wear and Northumberland. This new project will encourage local children to connect with nature outside of curriculum hours. Increased student activities included working with the Newcastle University Student Union, and four student research projects supported,

The Dickinson Memorial Fund supported Nature Guides to publish The Plants of Holy Island and Paul Miskin of Arts and Biodiversity Celebration to showcase high profile speakers.

Trustees' Report

Gosforth Nature Reserve

Much work was made towards the vision of maximising the potential of the nature reserve for people and wildlife. The ten-year plan for the reserve was approved by Natural England.

A huge thank you to over 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 North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) a long-standing dream of NHSN became a reality. May 2022 saw the official opening of the new Field Studies Room at the entrance to the nature reserve. The NELEP grant provided funds for the construction of the building by contractors, Gilleards. A huge thanks is due to committed, hard -working volunteers who completed the decorating, access ramps, boardwalks, steps and outdoor learning space including a raised pond. Thanks to the support of the Joicey Trust and funds raised by members following a fundraising appeal, the room was fully equipped to welcome new educational and community groups. Capita laid 20 tonnes of material to create a more accessible entrance and utility space. Planning obligation funding from North Tyneside Council enabled security fencing to be erected along the easterly reserve boundary and create a secure area around the new facilities.

Thanks to the Falk Weinberger Foundation an Outdoor Education Officer was appointed to review the educational programme, refresh policies and procedures to enable school visits to return, supported by approximately 20 enthusiastic, volunteer Education Rangers.

The autumn of 2021 brought the natural challenges of Storm Arwen and Storm Eunice, resulting in the greatest number of trees damaged or felled by strong winds in living memory.

July 2022 saw the return of Open Days post pandemic: 350 visitors enjoyed discovering the reserve, their learning and enjoyment increased by the enthusiasm and knowledge of volunteers and partner organisations.

Persimmon Homes withdrew their planning application to build houses opposite the reserve on land designed for business use. Thanks are due to all the individuals and groups who submitted objections to North Tyneside Council, totalling 5,815.

Library and Archive Collections

Thanks to the donations of kind members, the library and archive collections continued to grow. Notable donations were the 52 nature journals of previous NHSN Chair and Trustee Derek Shannon and books from previous Chair, Trustee and Hancock Museum Curator, Peter Davis.

Discussions took place, welcoming input from NE Youth and Young Women's Outreach, to develop a new project New Voices for North East Nature, with a funding bid submitted to the Dynamic Collection programme.

Strengthening NHSN

A digital AGM was held, at which there were no trustees coming to the end of their term this year. New trustee, Melanie Reed, was appointed in March 2022, bringing valuable communication skills to NHSN.

In line with our aim of widening people's engagement and connection with nature, a new Equity Policy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan was adopted. A new Environmental Policy was adopted and strengthened measures for safeguarding put in place at Gosforth Nature Reserve.

Trustees' Report

A Working Group of trustees completed a three-year Governance Improvement Action Plan. Progress this year included a refresh of Advisory Group terms of reference, improvements to the trustee induction programme, recruiting young Specialist Group Co-ordinators and progressing the transfer of NHSN to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The first Hancock Forum meeting was held, enabling retired trustees to continue to contribute to NHSN, network and keep in touch with the organisation's work.

Financial review

NHSN secures income from membership fees, donations, legacies, charitable activities, investment portfolio and grants. As well as the funding support already mentioned for specific initiatives, we were grateful to receive financial support from the Percy Hedley Charitable Trust, the Irene Price Memorial appeal, and a legacy from Mary Louise Dawson.

The financial position for the period shows a total unrestricted deficit of income over expenditure of \pounds 141,451 but a \pounds 47,398 surplus on restricted funds. Included within unrestricted funds is the current year realised and unrealised loss of \pounds 44,469 in respect of investment assets.

At the year end, reserves carried forward are: endowment funds of \pounds 54,332, restricted funds of \pounds 156,763 and unrestricted funds of \pounds 759,006.

The trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

The Financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommend 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 free reserves at a level which equates to at least six months unrestricted expenditure, which would equate to £100,000 to £125,000. Free reserves are unrestricted funds, excluding those invested or tied up within fixed assets. 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 £64,099 (2021: £129,515). This equates to three months unrestricted expenditure. The trustees are in the process this year of reducing our investments sufficiently to increase the level of free reserves to cover 6 months expenditure. NHSN holds investments of £633,511, 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.

Trustees' Report

Investment policy and objectives

All investment transactions during the year under review have been carried out in accordance with the trustees' powers. The Investment Policy was updated by the trustees in July 2022. The portfolio was adjusted in light of environmental, social and governance considerations to better reflect NHSN's new organisational plan.

Plans for future periods

Having embarked on the initial implementation of our new Action for North East Nature plan, we continue to be committed to achieve our vision 'Many more people and a wider range of people enjoying, understanding and protecting North East nature'.

Our focus across all NHSN future activities will be:

• North East Nature: Celebrating the region's natural history, and the natural history community of people and organisations

• Climate and biodiversity emergency: Raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities for all

• Everyone's a naturalist: Supporting people to notice and protect nature wherever they are and whatever their abilities and interest in natural history.

Specific highlights to look forward to in 2023 will be:

• Improving our indoor and outdoor programme of events, activities and courses, including the return of NHSN's Talks programme face to face.

- Welcoming more and a wider range of educational groups to Gosforth Nature Reserve
- Strengthening our regional citizen science

• Capturing and telling the stories of North East Naturalists and natural history organisations with the help of a new Project Archivist.

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.



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:

Dr Gordon Port Chairman and trustee

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Natural History Society Of Northumbria for the year ended 31 July 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 Azets Audit Services Bulman House Regent Centre Gosforth Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3LS

Date:....

Azets Audit Services is a trading name of Azets Audit Services Limited

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowmer	nts fron	n:				
Donations and legacies	2	147,003	65,052	-	212,055	203,903
Charitable activities	3	51,993	-	-	51,993	37,199
Investment income	4	16,313	-	-	16,313	17,412
Other income	5	2,000			2,000	
Total Income		217,309	65,052		282,361	258,514
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	(58,438)	-	-	(58,438)	(50,303)
Charitable activities	6	(272,413)	(1,104)		(273,517)	(247,565)
Total Expenditure		(330,851)	(1,104)		(331,955)	(297,868)
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		(44,469)			(44,469)	106,956
Net (expenditure)/income Gross transfers between		(158,011)	63,948	-	(94,063)	67,602
funds		16,550	(16,550)			
Net movement in funds		(141,461)	47,398	-	(94,063)	67,602
Reconciliation of funds	\$					
Total funds brought forward		900,467	109,365	54,332	1,064,164	996,562
Total funds carried forward	17	759,006	156,763	54,332	970,101	1,064,164

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

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments f	rom:				
Donations and legacies		110,503	93,400	-	203,903
Charitable activities		37,199	-	-	37,199
Investment income	4	17,412			17,412
Total income		165,114	93,400		258,514
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(50,303)	-	-	(50,303)
Charitable activities		(204,100)	(43,465)		(247,565)
Total expenditure		(254,403)	(43,465)		(297,868)
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		106,956			106,956
Net income		17,667	49,935	-	67,602
Gross transfers between funds		(14,042)	14,042		
Net movement in funds		3,625	63,977	-	67,602
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		896,842	45,388	54,332	996,562
Total funds carried forward	17	900,467	109,365	54,332	1,064,164

(Registration number: 526770) Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	261,094	236,318
Investments	12	633,511	696,458
		894,605	932,776
Current assets			
Debtors	13	6,877	92,514
Cash at bank and in hand		90,056	47,501
		96,933	140,015
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(21,437)	(8,627)
Net current assets		75,496	131,388
Net assets		970,101	1,064,164
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds		54,332	54,332
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	17	156,763	109,365
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		759,006	900,467
Total funds	17	970,101	1,064,164

The financial statements on pages 12 to 31 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Gordon Port Chair and Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

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. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

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 prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The trustees have assessed the financial position of the charity, and given the strong cash and investment balances, consider the going concern basis to be appropriate.

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:

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

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.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or

- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

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 it's fair value unless it's 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

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.

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

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

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

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	6,903	-	6,903
Legacies	1,520	-	1,520
Gift aid reclaimed	10,014	-	10,014
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	45,355	65,052	110,407
Subscriptions	82,633	-	82,633
Event income	578		578
	147,003	65,052	212,055
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Donations and legacies;	funds		
Donations and legacies; Donations from individuals	funds General	funds	2021 £
-	funds General £ 11,782	funds	2021 £ 11,782
Donations from individuals	funds General £ 11,782 4,000	funds	2021 £
Donations from individuals Legacies	funds General £ 11,782	funds	2021 £ 11,782 4,000
Donations from individuals Legacies Gift aid reclaimed	funds General £ 11,782 4,000	funds	2021 £ 11,782 4,000
Donations from individuals Legacies Gift aid reclaimed Grants, including capital grants;	funds General £ 11,782 4,000 9,195	funds £ - -	2021 £ 11,782 4,000 9,195
Donations from individuals Legacies Gift aid reclaimed Grants, including capital grants; Grants from other charities	funds General £ 11,782 4,000 9,195 12,174	funds £ - -	2021 £ 11,782 4,000 9,195 105,574

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Courses	20,441	20,441	10,978
Publications	1,458	1,458	256
GPNR	15,935	15,935	12,704
Ornithological Research	169	169	-
Great North Museum: Hancock	13,990	13,990	13,261
	51,993	51,993	37,199

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted		
	General £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from dividends;			
UK equity dividends	16,287	16,287	17,412
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Bank interest receivable	26	26	
	16,313	16,313	17,412

5 Other income

	Unrestricted		
	funds	Total	Total
	General	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Other Income	2,000	2,000	

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Raising funds expenditure

Costs of generating donations and legacies

	Unrestricted		
	General £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Wages & salaries	29,926	29,926	32,293
Pension costs	944	944	1,082
Insurance	1,161	1,161	154
General Expenses	386	386	185
Office costs	9,059	9,059	6,651
Depreciation	11,982	11,982	4,737
	53,458	53,458	45,102

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Charitable investment management costs

	Unrestricted		
		Total	Total
	General	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Investment Fees	4,980	4,980	5,201

£58,438 (2021: £50,303) of the above expenditure was attribuitable to unrestricted funds and £Nil (2021: £Nil) to restricted funds.

Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricte Designated	ed funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	11,639	239,004	1,104	251,747
Support costs		21,770		21,770
	11,639	260,774	1,104	273,517
	Unrestricte Designated		Restricted funds	Total 2021
	Unrestricte Designated £	ed funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Charitable activities		General	funds	2021
Charitable activities Support costs	Designated £	General £	funds £	2021 £

 \pounds 260,320 (2021: \pounds 195,009) of the above expenditure was attribuitable to unrestricted funds, \pounds 11,639 (2021: \pounds 9,091) to designated funds and \pounds 1,104 (2021: \pounds 43,465) to restricted funds.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Breakdown of charitable activities expenditure

	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries and National Insurance	97,938	105,685
Pension costs	3,091	3,542
Archive costs	828	180
Courses	14,597	4,570
Gosforth Nature Reserve	42,859	31,314
Great North Museum: Hancock	5,526	5,000
Library costs	1,260	250
Transactions	17,162	17,919
Partnership and Consultancy Costs	7,663	17,461
Conservation and Research	2,349	1,742
Events Expenditure	397	266
Marketing and Publicity	5,322	18,046
Staff and Volunteer Expenses	7,579	673
Premises	2,322	309
Communications and IT	7,814	5,953
General expenses	11,075	7,720
Depreciation	23,965	9,474
	251,747	230,104

Support costs allocated to other expenditure

	Governance costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	8,419	8,419	9,102
Premises	387	387	52
Communications & IT	1,302	1,302	992
General office	1,846	1,846	1,287
Governance	5,822	5,822	4,449
Depreciation	3,994	3,994	1,579
	21,770	21,770	17,461

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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

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

Mr D Teasdale (resigned 23/02/2021)

£nil (2021: £65.25) for the reimbursement for course tutor fees to Mr D Teasdale during the year.

Dr J Simkin (resigned 23/02/2021)

£nil (2021: £391.50) 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.

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	136,026	146,785
Pension costs	4,292	4,919
	140,318	151,704

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

	2022 No	2021 No
Employees	7	7

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 £45,202 (2021 - \pounds 44,359).

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2022 £	2021 £
Examination of the financial statements	4,740	2,640

10 Taxation

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

	Lake Lodge £	Hides £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 August 2021	45,389	227,563	50,013	322,965
Additions		64,717		64,717
At 31 July 2022	45,389	292,280	50,013	387,682
Depreciation				
At 1 August 2021	14,551	41,503	30,593	86,647
Charge for the year	5,151	27,394	7,396	39,941
At 31 July 2022	19,702	68,897	37,989	126,588
Net book value				
At 31 July 2022	25,687	223,383	12,024	261,094
At 31 July 2021	30,838	186,060	19,420	236,318

11 Tangible fixed assets

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

12 Fixed asset investments

Other investments	2022 £ 633,511	2021 £ 696,458
Other investments	Listed investments	Total
Cost or Valuation At 1 August 2021 Additions Disposals	£ 696,458 192,012 (229,487)	£ 696,458 192,012 (229,487)
Revaluation At 31 July 2022	(25,472) 633,511	(25,472) 633,511
Net book value At 31 July 2022	633,511	633,511
At 31 July 2021	696,458	696,458

All investments shown above are held at valuation.

Listed investments

The aggregate market value of listed investments is £633,511 (2021: £696,458).

Financial assets are 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 - 5.8% (2021: 5.4%)

iShares Physical Gold ETC (GBP) - 5.7% (2021: <5%)

JP Morgan Funds Limited IS Equity Income - <5% (2021: 5.5%)

All investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange.

The historical cost of such investments is £577,624 (2021: £566,145).

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

13 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	2,201	-
Prepayments	4,676	4,639
Accrued income	<u> </u>	87,875
	6,877	92,514

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	1,783	3,464
Accruals	10,054	5,163
Deferred income	9,600	-
	21,437	8,627
	2022 £	2021 £
Resources deferred in the period	9,600	-

Deferred income relates to conditions on the community foundation grant which have yet to be met.

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 \pounds 4,293 (2021: \pounds 4,919).

16 Commitments

Capital commitments

The total amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was \pounds Nil (2021 - \pounds 54,752).

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 August 2021 £		Resources expended £		Other recognised gains /(losses) £	Balance at 31 July 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
<i>General</i> General Fund	559,111	215,458	(319,212)	6,399	(44,469)	417,287
Designated						
James Alder Memorial Fund Dickinson Memorial Income	1,763	-	-	-	-	1,763
Fund	-	-	(2,000)	2,774	-	774
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	3,955	-	-	(411)	-	3,544
Lantern Fund		1,851	(9,639)	7,788		
	341,356	1,851	(11,639)	10,151	-	341,719
Total unrestricted funds	900,467	217,309	(<u>330,851)</u>	16,550	(44,469)	759,006
Restricted funds						
Archives	573	-	(800)	227	-	-
Heritage Emergency Grant	20,189	-	-	(2,582)	-	17,607
North East LEP	87,303	54,652	-	(14,195)	-	127,760
John Spendan Lewis						4 0 0 0
Foundation	1,300	-	-	-	-	1,300
Community Foundation National Lottery Community	-	400	(304)	-	-	96
Fund		10,000				10,000
Total restricted funds	109,365	65,052	(1,104)	(16,550)		156,763
Endowment funds						
Expendable						
Endowment Fund	54,332					54,332
	54,332					54,332
Total funds	1, <u>064,164</u>	282,361	(<u>331,955)</u>		(44,469)	970,101

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Designated Funds

• 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.

• 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Restricted Funds

• Archives Fund is made up from donations that are made specifically for the Archives activities.

• 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 deliver environmental activites 'Plan A for North East Nature' project.

• National Lottery Heritage Fund - A restricted fund consisting of a grant to deliver the 'How to be a Young North East Naturalist' project.

• National Lottery Community Fund - A grant to deliver environmental activities 'Plan A for North East Nature' project.

Transfers

During the year the company transferred £16,550 from restricted funds into unrestricted funds.

This included a transfer of £227 into restricted fund Archives to cover the expenditure incurred. Also included were transfers of £2,582 from restricted fund Heritage Emergency Grant and £14,195 from restricted fund North East LEP to bring the restricted funds in line with the net book value of corresponding fixed assets at year end.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

To Analysis of het assets betwee	en fuñas			
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds Expendable £	Total funds at 31 July 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	115,728	145,367	-	261,095
Fixed asset investments	579,179	-	54,332	633,511
Current assets	85,536	11,396	-	96,932
Current liabilities	(21,437)			(21,437)
Total net assets	759,006	156,763	54,332	970,101
	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
19 Analysis of net funds				
		At 1 August 2021 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 July 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand		47,501	42,555	90,056
Net fund		47,501	42,555	90,056

18 Analysis of net assets between 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 fund	227,707	(180,206)	47,501

20 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.