

Charity registration number 526770

**THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**



# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

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# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair                    | Dr Gordon Port (Chair)                                                                                                         |
| Trustees                 | Mr Rob Carr<br>Ms Lisa Gill<br>Ms Sammy Mason<br>Dr Gordon Port (Chair)<br>Dr Annie Tindley (Vice-Chair)<br>Mr Rinke Vinkenoog |
| Charity Number           | 526770                                                                                                                         |
| Key Management Personnel | Ms Clare Freeman, Director                                                                                                     |
| Principal Address        | Great North Museum: Hancock<br>Barras Bridge<br>Newcastle upon Tyne<br>NE2 4PT                                                 |
| Independent Examiner     | Simon Brown BA ACA DChA<br>Azets Audit Services<br>Bulman House<br>Regent Centre<br>Gosforth<br>Newcastle Upon Tyne<br>NE3 3LS |
| Bankers                  | Lloyds Bank plc<br>102 Grey Street<br>Newcastle Upon Tyne<br>Tyne And Wear<br>United Kingdom<br>NE1 6AG                        |

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# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President                              | Position Vacant                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Honorary Treasurer                     | Mr Brian Kram                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Trustees who stood down in 2023/24     | Ms Alexandra Healey<br>Mr Brian Kram<br>Dr Chris Redfern<br>Mr Michael Turner                                                                                                                                                              |
| Employees on 31st July 2024            | Ms Clare Freeman (Director)<br>Mrs Anna Ward (Finance and Office Manager)<br>Mr James Common (Senior Naturalist)<br>Ms Sarah Seeley (Membership Support)<br>Ms Amber Tatman (Assistant Nature Ranger)<br>Mr Paul Drummond (Reserve Warden) |
| Investment Committee                   | Mr Jonathan Hewitt<br>Mr Brian Kram<br>Dr Chris Redfern<br>Dr Gordon Port (Chair)                                                                                                                                                          |
| University Museum and Gallery Board    | Ms Clare Freeman                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Gosforth Nature Reserve Advisory Group | Mrs Julia Black<br><br>Mr Chris Wren<br>Dr Chris Redfern<br>Dr Gordon Port (Chair)<br>Mr Andy Atkinson<br>Mr Chris Castling<br>Ms Jenny Snell                                                                                              |

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# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024*

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "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).

#### **Structure, governance and management**

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

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr Rob Carr

Ms Lisa Gill

Ms Alexandra Healey

(Resigned 18 January 2024)

Mr Brian Kram

(Resigned 18 January 2024)

Ms Sammy Mason

Dr Gordon Port (Chair)

Dr Christopher Redfern

(Resigned 18 January 2024)

Dr Annie Tindley (Vice-Chair)

Mr Michael Turner

(Resigned 18 January 2024)

Mr Rinke Vinkenoog

#### **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, Chair and staff members. 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 Council meeting per year.

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

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#### 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.

#### Objectives and activities

NHSN has been inspiring wonder in the natural world, from the Tees to the Tweed, since 1829. NHSN is one of the oldest, largest and most active natural history societies in the country. Our objects 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'.

Our work follows the approach set by Sir David Attenborough "No-one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced." Our activities provide opportunities to experience and enjoy nature throughout North East England. Our impact is highlighted in the quote below:

"I love nature, this is the best day ever, I used to be scared of spiders but now I'm not" Harry, aged 8

We manage the regionally important Gosforth Nature Reserve in Newcastle upon Tyne, the largest natural history library collection in the region and the significant North East Nature Archive. We focus on the study of the natural sciences, regional citizen science projects, natural history talks, events, courses and publishing journals and magazines. We support and carry out nature conservation and research, mainly on our nature reserve and through our Specialist Groups.

Most work is undertaken by NHSN members on a voluntary basis. We are a membership organisation and we are grateful to all our members who pay an annual subscription to support the charity.

Our updated plan, Action for North East Nature, 2022 - 2025 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 values:

- We're locally focused. 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.
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# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

#### 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. A risk register is reviewed annually by trustees and operational risks managed day to day by the Director.

#### 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 Year of Investing in Action for North East Nature*

2023 - 24 has continued our investment in charitable activities, as the third year of delivering our organisational plan, *Action for North East Nature*, responding to the ever-increasing global challenge of climate change and the ecological emergency. We are grateful for previous legacies and support from members to be able to have funds available to invest in growing charitable activities, with our agreed financial strategy to invest funds to increase our charitable benefit.

Trustees committed NHSN funds to two projects; Gosforth's Wild Web and Nature's Cure in Times of Need, enabling significant grants to be secured from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Membership continued to grow with 2,850 memberships by the year end, an increase of 25 from last year. We were pleased to welcome one new Life Member. NHSN continued to develop digital opportunities and increase its face to face activities to widen and grow engagement in line with our vision.



# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

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#### *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, Environment Agency, Durham Wildlife Trust, Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC), St Mary's Island Conservation Group, the Baltic, Friends of Jesmond, Land of Oak and Iron, and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. Further engagement activities included working with Mammalweb from Durham University, National Trust at Gibside, Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Longhirst Wildlife Group.

Our Special Interest Groups including ornithology, botany, invertebrates, mammals and earth sciences, have continued wide and varied programmes of events, talks and activities. Our natural history talks continued face-to-face engagement meeting in Newcastle University's largest lecture hall, the Curtis Auditorium. The 1829 talks, 15-minute talks given by early-career researchers and conservationists continued to be a highlight of the programme. Approximately 100 events, 32 talks and 29 natural history education courses took place. We were pleased to partner with BSBI to hold the annual national BSBI conference in Newcastle in December 2023.

An impressive array of new material has been made available through our website and social media, with the YouTube channel film views totalling 31,000 in the year. NHSN's combined social media following stood at 17,702. Of these, 9,396 were on Facebook and 3,965 on Twitter/X. Instagram has 1,914 followers and YouTube has 1,826. LinkedIn is the newest platform for NHSN with 601 followers.

Our regional citizen science programme continued to grow with Gosforth's Wild Web project encouraging local people to notice, enjoy and share sightings. This year, over 328 people shared sightings of local wildlife, providing important information to help project nature.

Over 4,000 sightings of bees, ladybirds and orchids were recorded across the North East and at Gosforth Nature Reserve, captured over 1,700 sightings of everything from rare flowers to fish – including Gosforth Nature Reserve's first Eel in many years!

In urban Tyneside, over 200 of you shared the nature you noticed close to home as part of Gosforth's Wild Web, helping show the importance of the city's urban nature corridors. We were delighted to secure the support of the Reece Foundation to appoint a new Urban Naturalist in the forthcoming financial year to help engage local people and organisations in the protection of the urban nature corridor in line with the Ouse Burn Way Vision.

The North East Naturalist journal of North East Coastal Wildlife, published the contributions of 25 local naturalist authors. NHSN's museum collection grew thanks to the donation of otter specimens by longstanding member, Bob Wilkin. The Dickinson Memorial Fund supported three projects; the Friends of Jesmond Old Cemetery for the production of a nature trail leaflet, NHSN member Dan Turner to run a 'Plastics Warrior' event and member Ellie Davison to extend her Masters research to expand surveying toads for genetic diversity and Chytrid fungus prevalence.



# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

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#### *Inspiring Young Naturalists*

In line with our member's aspirations and local need, our work supporting young naturalists has further developed this year. We supported 286 young people through NHSN's Young Naturalist Appeal, with money raised by donations and match funded by NHSN. We welcomed 824 school children to Gosforth Nature Reserve and carried out 64 sessions in local schools, reaching another 490 children as part of Gosforth's Wild Web project.

Thanks to the support of the John Spedan Lewis Foundation the first NHSN Field Skills Programme was held in the spring and summer 2024, providing valuable training to 25 early-career naturalists and nurturing their skills in wildlife identification.

*"I really enjoyed my time on the field trips, especially as they gave me an opportunity to meet like-minded people interested in developing their species identification skills and to learn about their particular interests and career aspirations."*

Katie Burns, Field Skills Programme participant

Increased student activities included working with the Newcastle University Student Union, and three student research projects supported. We were delighted to host two Student Naturalists, long term placements, who brought youthful enthusiasm and skills to the team. These placements provide valuable experience for early career conservationists, to improve their employment prospects in a challenging sector.



# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

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#### **Gosforth Nature Reserve**

2024 was the centenary of when member William Edward Beck protected wildlife at Gosforth Nature Reserve. The centenary was marked with exciting events and a special film watched by over 1,000 people. Much work was made towards the vision of maximising the potential of the nature reserve for people and wildlife in line with the site management plan (2021 – 2031). In an increasingly urban environment the nature reserve, situated within the strategic wildlife corridors of Newcastle and North Tyneside, is a sanctuary for wildlife and local residents.

The focus of activities here is to engage people to enjoy, understand and protect nature. The majority of work is undertaken by our enthusiastic, committed and skilled volunteers. We owe them all a huge thank you. They work in all weathers, not deterred by mud or biting insects! During the year significant tasks completed was the rebuilding of a larger and more robust tern platform, thanks to the generous donation in memory of previous Hancock Museum Curator Tony Tynan.

Over 20 Volunteer Rangers welcome visitors and encourage wildlife sightings. Around 20 Conservation Volunteers carry out habitat management and repairs across the reserve. This was the second year of the Field Studies Room at the entrance to the nature reserve being open. This has transformed and increased school and group visits with having indoor space and basic facilities. We were delighted to welcome staff teams from local environmental and community organisations to enjoy team away days, embracing the natural setting.

The Nature Rangers continued to develop the educational programme supported by approximately 20 enthusiastic, volunteer Education Rangers. Their hard work was recognised by the Learning Outside the Classroom accreditation.

*“Thank you for a brilliant day with you at the nature reserve. The children had a fabulous time and thoroughly enjoyed all the activities you had planned for them. Please thank the other rangers and volunteers...their help was much appreciated.”*

*Kay Lister, Year 1 Teacher, Eastlea Primary School*

Land around the reserve continues to be urbanised, bringing ongoing challenges of water and air pollution. We were pleased to continue to be active with the Ouse Burn Sub-catchment Partnership. This group, chaired by the Tyne Rivers Trust, has brought valuable knowledge and skills to help us address these environmental challenges, especially regarding Whitecroft Burn pollution and flooding.

This year proved to be a good one for wildlife too with favourites such as Otter, Kingfisher and Barn Owl delighting visitors, plus the first Marsh Tit spotted in several decades. Wildlife monitoring continued with student research projects on beetles, footfall and otters. Surveys were carried out with partners including the Environment Agency, Newcastle University and Tyne Rivers Trust.

#### **Natural History Archive and Library Collections**

The National Heritage Lottery Fund project Nature's Cure in Times of Need continued to engage new voices for North East nature, capturing stories of what nature means to local individuals. Through outreach working with local community groups new perspectives will be welcomed into the North East Nature Archive. Sessions were held with West End Refugee Service, Scotswood Community Garden and Crisis. This project is also strengthening our collaboration with NE Youth and Newcastle University.

Thanks to the donations of kind members, the library and archive collections continued to grow. Notable donations were books gifted by Peter Davis and Chris Avanti. Committed volunteers continued to work with the archive and library collections, promoting them to a wider audience via events, blogs and social media.



# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

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#### **Strengthening NHSN**

A detailed survey of members' views was undertaken in June 2024 with 600 respondents. Our in-person AGM in January 2024, welcomed over 100 members to NHSN's home at 'the Hancock'.

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

Prices of events and courses were benchmarked due to the increased costs of support. We were delighted to be part of the Pilotlight programme to review our membership offer. Membership subscription rates were increased.

Trustees continue to review and deliver governance improvements, including trustee succession planning. New trustees, Irena Peel, Yulia Dzenkovska, Neil Emery and Andrew Sinclair, were appointed in July 2024, bringing valuable engagement skills to NHSN following an open advert with the membership and with the help of the Community Foundation's Trustee Match scheme. Two Hancock Forum meetings were held, enabling retired trustees to continue to contribute to NHSN, network and keep in touch with the organisation's work.



# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

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#### 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, Alpkitt Foundation, John Spedan Lewis Foundation, Woodland Trust, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

During the year, £80,000 was withdrawn from the portfolio and invested in the delivery of the NHSN plan, Action for North East Nature and to increase the level of free reserves. The trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

The financial position for the period shows a total deficit of income over expenditure of £122,253 split between £112,867 unrestricted and £9,386 restricted funds. Included within unrestricted funds is the current year realised gain of £29,673 in respect of investment assets.

At the year end, reserves carried forward are: endowment funds of £54,332, restricted funds of £116,300 and unrestricted funds of £555,069.

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. 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 £150,000 - £170,000. 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 £163,982 (2023: £210,704). This equates to 6 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 £371,246, 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 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.

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

#### Plans for future periods

Having invested in the delivery of our 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 2025 will be:

- Gosforth's Wild Web, the second year of this two year project engaging with local community groups, school children and residents to 'notice nature near you, around Newcastle'
- Supporting the Reece Foundation's Ouse Burn Way vision, with increased public engagement and biological recording in the Newcastle and North Tyneside wildlife corridors, led by a new senior role, Urban Naturalist.
- Capturing and sharing the stories of 'Nature's Cure in Times of Need'.
- Improving our indoor and outdoor programme of events, activities and courses, including the NHSN's Talks being accessible and appealing to a wider range of people
- Welcoming more and a wider range of educational groups to Gosforth Nature Reserve
- Strengthening our regional citizen science
- Strengthening our approach to equity, diversity and inclusion across all our activities and increasing the number of young naturalists we nurture, in line with our member priorities.

It is thanks to the collective support of so many members, supporters, volunteers, trustees, funders, donors and staff, that NHSN has been able to engage with so many more people in 2023. We are in a strong position to strengthen and widen engagement for North East nature in 2025 and beyond.



# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 year.

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 operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient 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 Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Gordon Port 03 Mar 2025 10:08:56 GMT (UTC +0)

Dr Gordon Port (Chair)

**Trustee**

Date: 03 March 2025



# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Natural History Society of Northumbria (the charity) for the year ended 31 July 2024.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity'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.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable 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 financial statements to be reached.



Simon Brown 03 Mar 2025 10:24:59 GMT (UTC +0)

**Simon Brown BA ACA DChA**

Azets Audit Services  
Bulman House  
Regent Centre  
Gosforth  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE3 3LS

Dated: 03 March 2025

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

|                                                |       | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Endowment<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Total<br>2024<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2023<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2023<br>£ | Endowment<br>funds<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                                | Notes |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |
| <b><u>Income and endowments from:</u></b>      |       |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |
| Donations and legacies                         | 3     | 132,754                            | 80,194                           | -                               | 212,948            | 142,248                            | 50,392                           | -                               | 192,640            |
| Charitable activities                          | 4     | 64,408                             | -                                | -                               | 64,408             | 61,756                             | -                                | -                               | 61,756             |
| Investments                                    | 5     | 14,503                             | -                                | -                               | 14,503             | 13,318                             | -                                | -                               | 13,318             |
| Other income                                   | 6     | 790                                | -                                | -                               | 790                | 815                                | -                                | -                               | 815                |
| <b>Total income</b>                            |       | <u>212,455</u>                     | <u>80,194</u>                    | <u>-</u>                        | <u>292,649</u>     | <u>218,137</u>                     | <u>50,392</u>                    | <u>-</u>                        | <u>268,529</u>     |
| <b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>                  |       |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |
| Raising funds                                  | 7     | <u>69,399</u>                      | <u>22,605</u>                    | <u>-</u>                        | <u>92,004</u>      | <u>64,529</u>                      | <u>-</u>                         | <u>-</u>                        | <u>64,529</u>      |
| Charitable activities                          | 8     | <u>259,539</u>                     | <u>93,032</u>                    | <u>-</u>                        | <u>352,571</u>     | <u>247,828</u>                     | <u>54,227</u>                    | <u>-</u>                        | <u>302,055</u>     |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                       |       | <u>328,938</u>                     | <u>115,637</u>                   | <u>-</u>                        | <u>444,575</u>     | <u>312,357</u>                     | <u>54,227</u>                    | <u>-</u>                        | <u>366,584</u>     |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments              | 13    | <u>29,673</u>                      | <u>-</u>                         | <u>-</u>                        | <u>29,673</u>      | <u>(24,092)</u>                    | <u>-</u>                         | <u>-</u>                        | <u>(24,092)</u>    |
| <b>Net outgoing resources before transfers</b> |       | <u>(86,810)</u>                    | <u>(35,443)</u>                  | <u>-</u>                        | <u>(122,253)</u>   | <u>(118,312)</u>                   | <u>(3,835)</u>                   | <u>-</u>                        | <u>(122,147)</u>   |

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)  
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

|                                                        | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Endowment<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Total<br>2024<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2023<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2023<br>£ | Endowment<br>funds<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Notes                                                  |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |                                    |                                  |                                 |                    |
| Net outgoing resources before transfers                | (86,810)                           | (35,443)                         | -                               | (122,253)          | (118,312)                          | (3,835)                          | -                               | (122,147)          |
| Gross transfers between funds                          | (26,057)                           | 26,057                           | -                               | -                  | 27,242                             | (27,242)                         | -                               | -                  |
| Net expenditure for the year/<br>Net movement in funds | (112,867)                          | (9,386)                          | -                               | (122,253)          | (91,070)                           | (31,077)                         | -                               | (122,147)          |
| Fund balances at 1 August 2023                         | 667,936                            | 125,686                          | 54,332                          | 847,954            | 759,006                            | 156,763                          | 54,332                          | 970,101            |
| Fund balances at 31 July 2024                          | 555,069                            | 116,300                          | 54,332                          | 725,701            | 667,936                            | 125,686                          | 54,332                          | 847,954            |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**AS AT 31 JULY 2024**

|                                                       | Notes | 2024<br>£      | £              | 2023<br>£      | £              |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                                   |       |                |                |                |                |
| Tangible assets                                       | 15    |                | 185,984        |                | 222,306        |
| Investments                                           | 16    |                | 371,246        |                | 417,847        |
|                                                       |       |                | <u>557,230</u> |                | <u>640,153</u> |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                 |       |                |                |                |                |
| Debtors                                               | 17    | 10,269         |                | 38,502         |                |
| Cash at bank and in hand                              |       | 174,991        |                | 178,012        |                |
|                                                       |       | <u>185,260</u> |                | <u>216,514</u> |                |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b> | 18    | (16,789)       |                | (8,713)        |                |
| Net current assets                                    |       |                | 168,471        |                | 207,801        |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>          |       |                | <u>725,701</u> |                | <u>847,954</u> |
| <b>Capital funds</b>                                  |       |                |                |                |                |
| Endowment funds                                       | 21    |                | 54,332         |                | 54,332         |
| <b>Income funds</b>                                   |       |                |                |                |                |
| Restricted funds                                      | 22    |                | 116,300        |                | 125,686        |
| <u>Unrestricted funds - general</u>                   |       |                |                |                |                |
| Designated funds                                      | 23    | 341,383        |                | 341,864        |                |
| General unrestricted funds                            |       | 213,686        |                | 326,072        |                |
|                                                       |       | <u>555,069</u> |                | <u>667,936</u> |                |
|                                                       |       |                | <u>725,701</u> |                | <u>847,954</u> |

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 03/03/2025.....



Gordon Port 03 Mar 2025 10:08:56 GMT (UTC +0)

Dr Gordon Port (Chair)

**Trustee**

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

The Natural History Society of Northumbria is a is constituted under the constitution of the society, originally dated 1961, as subsequently amended, most recently in 2021.

##### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with investments held at market value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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.

##### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.



# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

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.

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.

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

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

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

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.

Governance costs 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.

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.

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

##### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £200 or more are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

|            |                          |
|------------|--------------------------|
| Equipment  | 5-10 years straight line |
| Lake Lodge | 50 years straight line   |
| Hides      | 10 years straight line   |

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

##### 1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

##### 1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

##### 1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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### **1 Accounting policies**

**(Continued)**

#### ***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### **1.10 Retirement benefits**

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

### **2 Critical accounting estimates 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.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

3 Donations and legacies

|                             | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>general<br>2024<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Total<br>2024<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>general<br>2023<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Donations and gifts         | 29,032                                        | 14,075                           | 43,107             | 25,161                                        | -                                | 25,161             |
| Legacies receivable         | 759                                           | -                                | 759                | 5,307                                         | -                                | 5,307              |
| Grants from other charities | -                                             | 65,791                           | 65,791             | 12,567                                        | 50,392                           | 62,959             |
| Membership fees             | 99,400                                        | -                                | 99,400             | 95,624                                        | -                                | 95,624             |
| Donated goods and services  | 3,563                                         | 328                              | 3,891              | 3,589                                         | -                                | 3,589              |
|                             | <u>132,754</u>                                | <u>80,194</u>                    | <u>212,948</u>     | <u>142,248</u>                                | <u>50,392</u>                    | <u>192,640</u>     |

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

#### 4 Charitable activities

|                                    | Courses       | Publications | GPNR          | Great North<br>Museum<br>Hancock | Total<br>2024 | Total<br>2023 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                    | 2024          | 2024         | 2024          | 2024                             |               |               |
|                                    | £             | £            | £             | £                                | £             | £             |
| Sales within charitable activities | 25,684        | 2,886        | 19,832        | 16,006                           | 64,408        | 61,756        |
|                                    | <u>25,684</u> | <u>2,886</u> | <u>19,832</u> | <u>16,006</u>                    | <u>64,408</u> | <u>61,756</u> |

#### For the year ended 31 July 2023

|                                    | Courses       | Publications | GPNR          | Ornithological<br>research | Great North<br>Museum<br>Hancock | Total<br>2023 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
|                                    | £             | £            | £             | £                          | £                                | £             |
| Sales within charitable activities | 22,784        | 2,455        | 21,241        | 68                         | 15,208                           | 61,756        |
|                                    | <u>22,784</u> | <u>2,455</u> | <u>21,241</u> | <u>68</u>                  | <u>15,208</u>                    | <u>61,756</u> |

#### 5 Investments

|                     | Unrestricted funds<br>general<br>2024<br>£ | Unrestricted funds<br>general<br>2023<br>£ |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| UK equity dividends | 12,266                                     | 13,188                                     |
| Interest receivable | 2,237                                      | 130                                        |
|                     | <u>14,503</u>                              | <u>13,318</u>                              |

#### 6 Other income

|               | Unrestricted funds<br>general<br>2024<br>£ | Unrestricted funds<br>general<br>2023<br>£ |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Other income  | 250                                        | 300                                        |
| Rental income | 540                                        | 515                                        |
|               | <u>790</u>                                 | <u>815</u>                                 |



# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

### 7 Raising funds

|                                  | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>general<br>2024<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Total Unrestricted<br>funds<br>general<br>2024<br>£ | 2023<br>£     |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <u>Fundraising and publicity</u> |                                               |                                  |                                                     |               |
| Insurance                        | 1,371                                         | -                                | 1,371                                               | 1,118         |
| General expenses                 | 3,957                                         | 167                              | 4,124                                               | 392           |
| Office costs                     | 3,453                                         | 2                                | 3,455                                               | 8,977         |
| Staff costs                      | 46,080                                        | 22,436                           | 68,516                                              | 38,502        |
| Depreciation and impairment      | 11,384                                        | -                                | 11,384                                              | 11,771        |
|                                  | <u>66,245</u>                                 | <u>22,605</u>                    | <u>88,850</u>                                       | <u>60,760</u> |
| <u>Investment management</u>     | 3,154                                         | -                                | 3,154                                               | 3,769         |
|                                  | <u>69,399</u>                                 | <u>22,605</u>                    | <u>92,004</u>                                       | <u>64,529</u> |

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

### 8 Charitable activities

|                                        | 2024<br>£      | 2023<br>£      |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Staff costs                            | 137,033        | 126,004        |
| Depreciation and impairment            | 22,769         | 23,542         |
| Archive costs                          | 1,554          | 675            |
| Courses                                | 11,448         | 14,520         |
| Gosforth Nature Reserve                | 47,545         | 30,951         |
| Great North Museum: Hancock            | -              | 9,099          |
| Library costs                          | 493            | 872            |
| Transactions                           | 27,911         | 23,470         |
| Partnership and consultancy costs      | 34,021         | 15,075         |
| Conservation and research              | 762            | 1,041          |
| Events expenditure                     | 1,981          | 4,023          |
| Marketing and publicity                | 6,632          | 294            |
| Staff and volunteer expenses           | 6,777          | 7,329          |
| Premises                               | 2,741          | 2,237          |
| Communications and IT                  | 6,914          | 9,539          |
| General expenses                       | 8,248          | 9,201          |
|                                        | <u>316,829</u> | <u>277,872</u> |
| Share of support costs (see note 9)    | 29,618         | 17,920         |
| Share of governance costs (see note 9) | 6,124          | 6,263          |
|                                        | <u>352,571</u> | <u>302,055</u> |
| <b>Analysis by fund</b>                |                |                |
| Unrestricted funds - general           | 259,539        | 247,828        |
| Restricted funds                       | 93,032         | 54,227         |
|                                        | <u>352,571</u> | <u>302,055</u> |

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

#### 9 Support costs

|                                        | Support costs | Governance costs | 2024          | Support costs | Governance costs | 2023          |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
|                                        | £             | £                | £             | £             | £                | £             |
| Staff costs                            | 22,839        | -                | 22,839        | 10,500        | -                | 10,500        |
| Depreciation                           | 3,795         | -                | 3,795         | 3,924         | -                | 3,924         |
| Premises                               | 457           | -                | 457           | 373           | -                | 373           |
| Communications and IT                  | 1,152         | -                | 1,152         | 1,590         | -                | 1,590         |
| General office                         | 1,375         | -                | 1,375         | 1,533         | -                | 1,533         |
| Independent examination fees           | -             | 6,124            | 6,124         | -             | 6,263            | 6,263         |
|                                        | <u>29,618</u> | <u>6,124</u>     | <u>35,742</u> | <u>17,920</u> | <u>6,263</u>     | <u>24,183</u> |
| Analysed between Charitable activities | <u>29,618</u> | <u>6,124</u>     | <u>35,742</u> | <u>17,920</u> | <u>6,263</u>     | <u>24,183</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.

Governance costs include payments to the independent examination of £5,160 (2023- £5,160) for independent examination fees.

#### 10 Independent examiner remuneration

| Fees payable to the charity's independent examiner: | 2024<br>£    | 2023<br>£    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Examination of the financial statements             | <u>5,400</u> | <u>5,160</u> |

#### 11 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

#### 12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

| 2024<br>Number | 2023<br>Number |
|----------------|----------------|
| <u>8</u>       | <u>7</u>       |

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

### 12 Employees (Continued)

| Employment costs    | 2024<br>£      | 2023<br>£      |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wages and salaries  | 220,689        | 169,491        |
| Other pension costs | 7,699          | 5,515          |
|                     | <u>228,388</u> | <u>175,006</u> |

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £57,360 (2023; £51,409)

### 13 Net gains/(losses) on investments

|                                    | Unrestricted funds<br>general<br>2024<br>£ | Unrestricted funds<br>general<br>2023<br>£ |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Gain/(loss) on sale of investments | <u>29,673</u>                              | <u>(24,092)</u>                            |

### 14 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

### 15 Tangible fixed assets

|                                    | Equipment<br>£ | Lake Lodge<br>£ | Hides<br>£     | Total<br>£     |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Cost</b>                        |                |                 |                |                |
| At 1 August 2023                   | 50,462         | 45,389          | 292,280        | 388,131        |
| Additions                          | <u>1,625</u>   | <u>-</u>        | <u>-</u>       | <u>1,625</u>   |
| At 31 July 2024                    | <u>52,087</u>  | <u>45,389</u>   | <u>292,280</u> | <u>389,756</u> |
| <b>Depreciation and impairment</b> |                |                 |                |                |
| At 1 August 2023                   | 44,126         | 24,853          | 96,846         | 165,825        |
| Depreciation charged in the year   | <u>4,847</u>   | <u>5,151</u>    | <u>27,949</u>  | <u>37,947</u>  |
| At 31 July 2024                    | <u>48,973</u>  | <u>30,004</u>   | <u>124,795</u> | <u>203,772</u> |
| <b>Carrying amount</b>             |                |                 |                |                |
| At 31 July 2024                    | <u>3,114</u>   | <u>15,385</u>   | <u>167,485</u> | <u>185,984</u> |
| At 31 July 2023                    | <u>6,336</u>   | <u>20,536</u>   | <u>195,434</u> | <u>222,306</u> |

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

### 16 Fixed asset investments

|                          | Listed<br>investments<br>£ |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Cost or valuation</b> |                            |
| At 1 August 2023         | 417,847                    |
| Additions                | 131,050                    |
| Valuation changes        | 19,498                     |
| Disposals                | (197,149)                  |
|                          | <hr/>                      |
| At 31 July 2024          | 371,246                    |
|                          | <hr/>                      |
| <b>Carrying amount</b>   |                            |
| At 31 July 2024          | 371,246                    |
|                          | <hr/> <hr/>                |
| At 31 July 2023          | 417,847                    |
|                          | <hr/> <hr/>                |

All investments shown above are held at valuation.

The aggregate market value of listed investments is £371,246 (2023: £417,847).

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:

UBS Fund Solutions MSCI - 5.9% (2023: 7%)  
 Twentyfour Investment Funds Corporate Bond I GBP - <5% (2023: 5.8%)  
 Vanguard Investment Series PLC UK Govt Bond - 6.3% (2023: 5.6%)  
 Robeco Capital Growth Funds GBP INC - 6.1% (2023: 5.4%)  
 Brown Advisory Funds US - 5.8% (2023: 5.1%)

All investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange.

The historical cost of such investments is £332,657 (2023: £401,339).

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

### 17 Debtors

|                                             | 2024<br>£     | 2023<br>£     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b> |               |               |
| Trade debtors                               | 722           | 9,709         |
| Prepayments and accrued income              | 9,547         | 28,793        |
|                                             | <u>10,269</u> | <u>38,502</u> |

### 18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

|                                    | Notes | 2024<br>£     | 2023<br>£    |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------------|--------------|
| Other taxation and social security |       | 3,759         | -            |
| Deferred income                    | 19    | 120           | 400          |
| Trade creditors                    |       | 2,024         | 75           |
| Accruals                           |       | 10,886        | 8,238        |
|                                    |       | <u>16,789</u> | <u>8,713</u> |

### 19 Deferred income

|                       | 2024<br>£  | 2023<br>£  |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Other deferred income | <u>120</u> | <u>400</u> |

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

|                                     | 2024<br>£  | 2023<br>£  |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Deferred income is included within: |            |            |
| Current liabilities                 | <u>120</u> | <u>400</u> |
| Movements in the year:              |            |            |
| Deferred income at 1 August 2023    | 400        | 9,600      |
| Released from previous periods      | (400)      | (9,600)    |
| Resources deferred in the year      | <u>120</u> | <u>400</u> |
| Deferred income at 31 July 2024     | <u>120</u> | <u>400</u> |



# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

### 20 Retirement benefit schemes

#### Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £7,699 (2023 - £5,515).

The amount outstanding at the year end was £1,007 (2023; £993)

### 21 Endowment funds

Endowment funds represent assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the assets form part of the fund.

|                             | Balance at<br>1 August 2022<br>£ | Movement<br>in funds<br>Incoming<br>resources<br>£ | Balance at<br>1 August 2023<br>£ | Movement<br>in funds<br>Incoming<br>resources<br>£ | Balance at<br>31 July 2024<br>£ |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Permanent endowments</b> |                                  |                                                    |                                  |                                                    |                                 |
| Endowment Fund              | 54,332                           | -                                                  | 54,332                           | -                                                  | 54,332                          |
|                             | <u>54,332</u>                    | <u>-</u>                                           | <u>54,332</u>                    | <u>-</u>                                           | <u>54,332</u>                   |

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.

All expendable endowments are included in designated funds.

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

#### 22 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

|                                         | Movement in funds           |                       |                       |                 | Movement in funds           |                       |                       |               |                            |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
|                                         | Balance at<br>1 August 2022 | Incoming<br>resources | Resources<br>expended | Transfers       | Balance at<br>1 August 2023 | Incoming<br>resources | Resources<br>expended | Transfers     | Balance at<br>31 July 2024 |
|                                         | £                           | £                     | £                     | £               | £                           | £                     | £                     | £             | £                          |
| Heritage Emergency Grant                | 17,607                      | -                     | -                     | (2,582)         | 15,025                      | -                     | -                     | (2,582)       | 12,443                     |
| North East Local Enterprise Partnership | 127,760                     | -                     | -                     | (14,196)        | 113,564                     | -                     | -                     | (14,196)      | 99,368                     |
| John Spendan Lewis Foundation           | 1,300                       | -                     | -                     | -               | 1,300                       | 5,990                 | (2,180)               | (5,110)       | -                          |
| Nature's Cure                           | 96                          | 9,600                 | (6,896)               | (2,800)         | (4,203)                     | 18,922                | (33,046)              | 18,327        | -                          |
| Young North East Naturalists            | 10,000                      | -                     | (10,000)              | -               | -                           | 75                    | (1,157)               | 1,082         | -                          |
| Reece Foundation                        | -                           | 14,364                | (18,567)              | -               | -                           | -                     | (371)                 | 371           | -                          |
| Gosforth Wild Web                       | -                           | 2,000                 | (2,261)               | 261             | -                           | 36,127                | (63,901)              | 27,774        | -                          |
| Species Survival Fund                   | -                           | 24,428                | (16,503)              | (7,925)         | -                           | -                     | (391)                 | 391           | -                          |
| Percy Hedley Foundation                 | -                           | -                     | -                     | -               | -                           | 1,000                 | -                     | -             | 1,000                      |
| Tony Tynan Donation                     | -                           | -                     | -                     | -               | -                           | 13,000                | (9,511)               | -             | 3,489                      |
| Whitehouse Farm Planning Obligations    | -                           | -                     | -                     | -               | -                           | 5,080                 | (5,080)               | -             | -                          |
|                                         | <u>156,763</u>              | <u>50,392</u>         | <u>(54,227)</u>       | <u>(27,242)</u> | <u>125,686</u>              | <u>80,194</u>         | <u>(115,637)</u>      | <u>26,057</u> | <u>116,300</u>             |

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

22    Restricted funds (Continued)

- 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.
- North East Local Enterprise Partnership - a restricted fund to construct the Field Studies Room at Gosforth Nature Reserve
- 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.
- Nature's Cure in Times of Need; New Voices for North East Nature a restricted fund consisting of a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a three year project
- Community Foundation - A grant to deliver environmental activities '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.
- Reece Foundation - a restricted fund consisting of a grant from the Reece Foundation to employ an Urban Naturalist for three years.
- Gosforth Wild Web -a restricted fund consisting of a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a two year project Gosforth's Wild Web.
- Species Survival Fund - a restricted fund consisting of a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a two year project funding habitat and species work at Gosforth Nature Reserve.
- Percy Hedley Foundation - a donation towards charity costs.
- Tony Tynan Donation - a donation towards agreed activities of opportunities for young people and construction of a tern platform and IT equipment at Gosforth Nature Reserve.
- Whitehouse Farm Planning Obligations - a restricted fund of planning obligations from the Bellway Whitehouse Farm development for site improvements at Gosforth Nature Reserve.

**Transfers**

During the year the company transferred £26,057 from unrestricted funds into restricted funds. This includes transfers of £2,582 from restricted fund Heritage Emergency Grant and £14,196 from restricted fund North East Local Enterprise Partnerships to bring the restricted funds in line with the net book value of corresponding fixed assets at year end. Other funds received transfers in order to bring their balance to nil.

# THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

#### 23 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

|                                | Movement in funds           |                       |                       |              | Movement in funds           |                       |                       |                |                            |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
|                                | Balance at<br>1 August 2022 | Incoming<br>resources | Resources<br>expended | Transfers    | Balance at<br>1 August 2023 | Incoming<br>resources | Resources<br>expended | Transfers      | Balance at<br>31 July 2024 |
|                                | £                           | £                     | £                     | £            | £                           | £                     | £                     | £              | £                          |
| James Alder Memorial Fund      | 1,763                       | -                     | -                     | -            | 1,763                       | -                     | -                     | -              | 1,763                      |
| Dickinson Memorial Income Fund | 774                         | -                     | (3,858)               | 3,084        | -                           | -                     | (1,650)               | 1,650          | -                          |
| Maintenance Fund               | 1,470                       | -                     | -                     | -            | 1,470                       | -                     | -                     | -              | 1,470                      |
| TB Short Memorial Fund         | 184,786                     | -                     | -                     | -            | 184,786                     | -                     | -                     | -              | 184,786                    |
| Grace Hickling Memorial Fund   | 149,382                     | -                     | -                     | -            | 149,382                     | -                     | -                     | -              | 149,382                    |
| Life Membership Fund           | 3,544                       | 1,400                 | -                     | (481)        | 4,463                       | -                     | -                     | (481)          | 3,982                      |
| Young Naturalists Fund         | -                           | 1,350                 | (232)                 | (1,118)      | -                           | 6,030                 | (812)                 | (5,218)        | -                          |
|                                | <u>341,719</u>              | <u>2,750</u>          | <u>(4,090)</u>        | <u>1,485</u> | <u>341,864</u>              | <u>6,030</u>          | <u>(2,462)</u>        | <u>(4,049)</u> | <u>341,383</u>             |

- 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.
- Young Naturalists Fund - The Young Naturalists 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.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

24 Analysis of net assets between funds

|                                                   | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Endowment<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Total Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2023<br>£ | Endowment<br>funds<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Fund balances at 31 July 2024 are represented by: |                                    |                                  |                                 |                                          |                                  |                                 |                    |
| Tangible assets                                   | 74,173                             | 111,811                          | -                               | 185,984                                  | 93,717                           | 128,589                         | 222,306            |
| Investments                                       | 316,914                            | -                                | 54,332                          | 371,246                                  | 363,515                          | -                               | 417,847            |
| Current assets/(liabilities)                      | 163,982                            | 4,489                            | -                               | 168,471                                  | 210,704                          | (2,903)                         | 207,801            |
|                                                   | <u>555,069</u>                     | <u>116,300</u>                   | <u>54,332</u>                   | <u>725,701</u>                           | <u>667,936</u>                   | <u>125,686</u>                  | <u>847,954</u>     |

**THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NORTHUMBRIA**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024***

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**25 Related party transactions**

**Remuneration of key management personnel**

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

|                        | <b>2024</b> | <b>2023</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                        | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Aggregate compensation | 59,561      | 51,409      |

During the year the charity received £210 income (2023: £nil) from Land of Oak & Iron Trust which is a related party by virtue of a mutual trustee.