



To protect freshwater life for everyone to enjoy

Annual report and accounts 2013/14





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About Freshwater Habitats Trust



Freshwater Habitats Trust is a national charity created in 1988 to protect the wildlife of our freshwaters. Life in freshwaters is under threat everywhere. We aim to protect it through strong practical action backed by sound research-based information. We think that maintaining a rich and healthy freshwater environment brings benefits to everyone – now and in the future.



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We are:

- An evidence-based conservation charity, with a strong science grounding.
- Highly strategic – we target our work where evidence suggests it will be most effective.
- Concerned with all freshwaters including those that are small and undervalued like headwater streams, ponds, flushes and ditches.
- Working in partnership with people, communities and organisations to get the best results for freshwater wildlife.

Strategic areas:

Freshwater Habitats Trust works on species, habitats and with people to identify our most important areas for freshwater biodiversity, protect the best habitats, conserve species, and expand and connect high quality areas to create the Freshwater Network.

We do this by:

- **Policy work:** championing freshwater biodiversity at national and European levels.
- **Practical projects:** implementing practical solutions based on best practice.
- **Public outreach and partnership:** working with people to achieve our aims.
- **Research and monitoring:** investigating better ways to protect freshwater biodiversity, understand national trends and review the effectiveness of our work.



Court Lodge Farm, Sussex
– new ponds on the edge of Pevensey levels

Achievements in 2013/14

2013-14 was a big year for the organisation as we re-launched as Freshwater Habitats Trust, reflecting our broad mission to protect life in all freshwaters. The new look for the organisation has been widely welcomed, and much better reflects our range of activities.

We celebrated the re-launch with a boat trip on the Thames in London in September, where we were joined by many friends and colleagues who have supported us over the years. We are pleased to acknowledge the financial support of Thames Water, Waitrose, Hanson and the Co-operative Group who helped to fund the event.

As part of the relaunch we were also fortunate to be chosen by the BBC for a Radio 4 appeal in September 2013, voiced by Springwatch presenter Martin Hughes-Games. This brought our new name, and the Million Ponds Project, to a wide public audience.

We completed our transition to Freshwater Habitats Trust at the end of the financial year when we moved into new premises at Bury Knowle House in Oxford, just up the road from old premises at Oxford Brookes University, where we are still renting laboratory space. The new location is wonderfully spacious and green, and a joy to work in. It is already allowing us to increase the size of our staff team and volunteers, as well as host colleagues from partner organisations – beginning with the River Thame Conservation Trust.

Influencing policy

There is growing awareness throughout Europe of the importance of small waterbodies – both still and flowing. It is increasingly recognised that the many thousands of kilometres of small streams, headwaters and ditches, as well as millions of ponds and small lakes, are vital for freshwater biodiversity, and not well protected under current regimes.

To influence this process at European level we have started a project with the European Environmental Bureau to develop a new manual to guide the protection, management and creation of small



Freshwater Habitats Trust launch on the River Thames in September 2013

waterbodies across Europe. We expect this to make a significant contribution to the future development of the Water Framework Directive as well as providing valuable practical guidance for policy makers and water managers.

An important milestone in this project was a workshop in Brussels in November 2013, hosted jointly by FHT and European Environmental Bureau, with the support of the European Commission and the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU.

We continued to engage with policy in the UK, helping to update the aims of the NGO-led Blueprint consortium, which has led directly to the establishment of the new Catchment-Based Approach to public engagement in water management. Within the group we are encouraging a strong commitment to the protection of freshwater biodiversity, which is often poorly served by the current water policy objectives in the Water Framework Directive.

Delivering on the ground

Protecting the best, and creating new high quality habitat

Following the launch of Phase 2 of the Million Ponds Project, we have undertaken pond creation projects in Oxfordshire and as part of our Water Friendly Farming work in Leicestershire. We continued work in the catchment of the River Thames, and took on the hosting of a new catchment, the River Ock west of Oxford which also includes the flood prone area of central Oxford.

We completed a survey of biologically important ponds in the New Forest which will guide the management of these critical sites for several years to come. We also began preparations for surveys of another set of exceptionally important ponds, at Thompson Common in Norfolk, scheduled for the 2014 field season.

Research

Underpinning practical action on all freshwaters

We continued major research projects assessing the effectiveness of measures to mitigate the impacts of farming on freshwater in our Water Friendly Farming project, run jointly with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Syngenta, the Environment Agency and other partners. We also had the opportunity to become involved in one of the most exciting new areas of freshwater research – the detection of freshwater plants and animals using the DNA they shed into the water, so called environmental DNA. We began work assessing the value of new ponds with the University of Sheffield, whom we also teamed up with to bid for substantial research funds for assessing the benefits of the ponds created in the Million Ponds Project.

Working with the public

During the year we continued development work on what, if funded by HLF, will be our most important public programme, and an important developmental step for the organisation. The 'People, Ponds and Water' project received a first stage pass from the HLF in 2012, and during 2013-14 we have undertaken the necessary development work to proceed to a Stage 2 application, with development funding from HLF.



© Martin Hammond

Thompson Common, Norfolk – one of the UK's most important freshwater sites where we are undertaking surveys during 2014

The 2013-14 financial year also saw important further developments in the 'PondNet project'. PondNet is a new volunteer-based surveillance network to collect data on trends in pond habitats and associated priority freshwater plant and animal species. With funding from Defra and Natural England, and in partnership with many NGOs, we have trialled the survey techniques over the last two years. The trials proved very successful, showing that in three pilot regions in England (South Hampshire, NE Yorkshire and Cheshire) it was possible to establish the network.

We continued work with Earthwatch developing and testing quick methods for measuring water pollution which can be used by anyone. We have also been testing these 'rapid assessment' methods in our catchment studies in the New Forest, the River Thames catchment and in our Water Friendly Farming project.

Developing the organisation

We continued work to ensure that our organisation is secure financially, to meet the many challenges facing freshwater life, and are growing regionally to strengthen our work on the ground. With specific regional projects in Cheshire, Sussex, Yorkshire, Wales, and East Anglia we began to work more closely with regionally based specialist freshwater biologists and ecologists with whom we plan to develop our programme of regional activities over the next 2-3 years. In discussion with the Crown Estate we also began exploring future developments in Scotland where we have a relatively limited presence.

Influencing policy

Small waterbodies like ponds, headwaters, and small streams, flushes, small lakes and ditches are vital for freshwater wildlife but remain the poor relation in terms of policy and legislation, compared to larger freshwaters. This has critical knock-on effects: because little is known about the condition of these waterbodies there is little funding to protect their wildlife.

Freshwater Habitats Trust's policy work aims to ensure that threats to the biodiversity value of small waters specifically, and freshwaters more generally, are well understood by government, statutory agencies, other NGOs and the public. Protecting these small waters effectively will be profoundly beneficial for freshwater biodiversity and we are working to directly influence the shape of policy and legislation at both national and European level to achieve this goal in a practical way.

During the year we have:

- Worked closely with other members of Wildlife and Countryside Link to refine and simplify the highly successful Blueprint for Water campaign, encouraging the group to focus more precisely on the protection of freshwater biodiversity.
- Joined the Steering Group of the NGO 'State of Nature' consortium, promoting the need to protect freshwater biodiversity (we expect a second State of Nature report to be published in 2016).
- Continued to engage with the Defra Catchment-Based Approach in England for water management, particularly by developing our co-hosting of the New Forest catchment with the New Forest National Park Authority, and hosting of the Ock and Thame catchments.
- Worked closely with members of the Wales Freshwater Biodiversity Group to implement plans to protect priority freshwater species and habitats in Wales.



© Natural England

We are working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority, to protect freshwater in the Forest

Key projects

Important Freshwater Areas in England

During 2013-14 we began work on the Important Freshwater Areas project to bring together in one place information on the most important ponds, streams, lakes, rivers, ditches, springs and flushes. At present there is no single such resource, with the result that managers, planners and policy makers are rarely able to adopt practical landscape-wide strategies for protecting freshwater biodiversity.

To begin the work we held a workshop in Oxford attended by a wide variety of the specialist groups involved in water and biodiversity management to discuss key technical issues relating to the project. We are now seeking funding to continue and complete the work which will underpin a large part of our practical work over the following 5-10 years.

Important Areas for Ponds in England - putting our best ponds on the map

In 2013-14 we brought together the data for the Important Areas for Ponds project in England.

We have previously identified these sites in Wales, Northern Ireland and south-east England.

Ponds and small water bodies

They are often overlooked, but small water bodies such as ponds and ditches play a critical role in supporting ecosystem services (intercepting, storing and routing water and nutrients, transporting and transforming carbon, and supporting biodiversity). Ponds alone support 70% of freshwater biodiversity and more endangered species than lakes, rivers, streams or ditches. Land managers and communities can add diversity to ecological networks in an inexpensive and highly effective way, by creating small clean water bodies across the countryside.

The statement on ponds and other small waters made in the Natural Environment White Paper in 2011 still provides important underpinning for our work.

Work to influence EU and national legislation

Brussels Workshop

During the year, work supported by the John Ellerman Foundation has enabled us to continue developing European level influence on the Water Framework Directive and specifically promote the concept of better protection for, and management of, small waters.

Working with the European Environmental Bureau, a highly respected umbrella group for European citizen-based NGOs, we have promoted the importance of small waterbodies, still and flowing, for freshwater biodiversity and ecosystem services. The output of this project will be an EU-wide manual of techniques for monitoring, protecting and managing small waterbodies which we hope will have a substantial influence on the management of freshwaters across Europe. As part of this work we ran a workshop on the protection and management of small waters in Brussels on 14 November 2013 with the aim of providing a forum to discuss possible ways to better protect and manage small waters in the context of the Water Framework Directive and Nature Directives.

The workshop was organised in collaboration with the European Environmental Bureau, the European Commission, and the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. A total of 62

participants from 18 Member States attended the workshop, including water and nature managers, policy makers, scientists, other stakeholders and NGO representatives. The general consensus that small water bodies are important for biodiversity and other ecosystem services, highlighted in this workshop, is a major step towards their protection. The output of the workshop will contribute to the preparation of an advisory manual on the conservation of small water bodies for policy makers and practitioners to be published in autumn 2015.



Dr Jeremy Biggs, FHT Director and Poul Christensen, Chair of Natural England at the FHT launch in September 2013

Advocacy

Throughout 2013-14 we continued to address freshwater policy issues through our membership of Wildlife & Countryside Link, the umbrella body for the conservation movement. Jeremy Biggs was re-elected as Deputy Chair of Link and helped the organisation undertake a strategic review of its priorities. We have worked hard to promote the importance of small waterbodies in catchment management processes, traditionally dominated by a focus on rivers which represent no more than 25% of the water environment.

We are pleased to see that policy makers are increasingly considering all parts of the water environment in developing plans for freshwater. For example, shortly after the end of the current financial year, the National Audit Office, in a briefing to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee on the state of the freshwater environment, used the words, ponds, streams, rivers and lakes, when describing what constitutes the freshwater environment.

Public outreach and partnership

To achieve our objectives we aim to inspire a wide range of people at home, in their communities and in other conservation organisations, and ensure that this enthusiasm is translated into action on the ground.

HLF 'People, Ponds and Water'

This is potentially one of our most important new initiatives; if given the go ahead by HLF it will enable us to undertake a major programme of outreach, engaging people with three practical activities which can make a substantial difference to freshwater biodiversity. Specifically in the project we aim to (i) establish the Flagship Ponds project, working with local groups at 70 sites around England and Wales to protect the most important pond sites for freshwater biodiversity (ii) roll out nationally the PondNet monitoring programme and (iii) run the Clean Water

for Wildlife survey which will enable people to measure water pollution quickly and close to home, to understand better how widespread pollution is, and to find remaining patches of clean water.

During 2013-14 as part of the development work for People, Ponds and Water, we also undertook extensive testing of water quality kits in the Communities for Clean Water project in the New Forest. Working with local groups we explored the Blackwater River catchment in the New Forest to analyse which test kits worked well, and which were less reliable.

PondNet recruiting at Wild About Sussex event



PondNet

Developing a strategy for volunteer pond monitoring across England

Knowledge is a vital pre-requisite for biodiversity protection, and without surveillance data to tell us which plants, animals or habitats are declining there is no impetus for action to protect vulnerable species. Although ponds have the highest proportion of threatened species of all freshwater habitats (around 10% of all priority species, terrestrial, aquatic and marine), there is no regular monitoring of either the habitat or the vast majority of its rare species.

'PondNet', a new volunteer-based surveillance network to collect data on trends in pond habitats, and associated priority freshwater plant and animal species, had a very successful trial.

Overall, recruitment and training of volunteers was straightforward, although ensuring the volunteers are adequately supported needed considerable resources. Quality assurance of the data suggests that relatively inexperienced volunteers can collect good data for physico-chemical measures and species which are easy to identify. However, monitoring more complex biotic variables (e.g. the variety of plant species or invertebrate families present in a pond) needs to be done by volunteers with a higher level of expertise. As noted above, we hope to roll PondNet out nationally as part of the HLF funded 'People, Ponds and Water' project in 2015-2018.

Life in garden ponds

Garden ponds are still an important part of our awareness raising strategy, allowing us to reach beyond the traditional conservation audience. The Big Pond Dip, which is the first ever national garden pond public survey to assess the quality of the pond environment, ran for the fourth year in 2013 and continues to augment the support we provide through our public advice line. Our rapid survey of frog spawn, the Big Spawn Count, returned for its second year, asking garden and school pond owners to count the number of spawn clumps they had, to help us learn even more about the breeding habitats of native amphibians. The survey always captures people's interest, and has generated much discussion and delight through our online social forums.



Martin Hughes-Games recording our BBC Radio 4 appeal

Publicity

BBC Radio 4 Charity Appeal

In 2013 we were very pleased to be selected as a BBC Radio 4 appeal. Broadcast in September, Springwatch presenter Martin Hughes-Games introduced Freshwater Habitats Trust to the BBC Radio 4 audience, requesting donations for the Million Ponds Project. The appeal raised over £16,000.

Social media

Our Facebook page is a growing platform where people who share a passion for freshwater wildlife can share stories, photos and request advice from the team. We have over 1700 likes, and an average reach of 500 per post.

We currently have an eclectic mix of over 3500 followers on Twitter, including journalists, politicians, wildlife professionals/groups/enthusiasts, affiliate organisations, artists and musicians.

Freshwater Watch, with Earthwatch

Working with Earthwatch we developed a training programme for non-specialists to collect reliable chemical data from all kinds of freshwaters (ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, ditches) using three simple measurements – water conductivity, soluble reactive phosphorus and nitrate-nitrogen.

Practical projects

Practical action that brings real benefit to freshwater wildlife is at the heart of all our work. We undertake local, regional and national projects to ensure this happens.

The Million Ponds Project Phase 2 Putting back clean water in the landscape

Ponds are small and easily created but support more species, common and endangered, than any other freshwater habitat type. If you make new ponds in places where there is clean water they can quickly become fantastic wildlife habitats.

The Million Ponds Project, which was conceived in 2007 as a core activity of our organisation, is the biggest pond creation project in the world. Phase 1 ran from 2008 to autumn 2012 and aimed to create the first 5,000 new clean water ponds in England and Wales needed to meet the long-term goal of doubling pond numbers. Of these, 1,000 ponds were targeted to support some of the 100 or so pond-associated species that are a national priority for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The project is co-ordinated by Freshwater Habitats Trust and is a collaboration of major landowners and land managers.

Overall, Phase 1 of the project, funded by a dedicated £500,000 Biffaward grant, exceeded its target for ponds created specifically for individual Biodiversity Action Plan species, with over 1000 ponds created against an original target of 650. This included habitats for 40+ pond-associated BAP species such as Spangled Water Beetle, Water Vole, Pillwort, Lapwing, Lesser Horseshoe Bat, Mud Snail, Tassel Stonewort, Grass-poly, Marsh Clubmoss, Natterjack Toad, and Great Crested Newt. We are now seeing colonisation of the new ponds by many of these species at sites located across England and Wales.

In September 2012 we began Phase 2 of the project to continue and extend the creation of new high quality ponds across the country. With new clean water pond creation now being a much more widely recognised conservation technique, we are building

individual regional and local projects to promote pond creation. New pond creation work has already been started as part of our Water Friendly Farming work in Leicestershire; at the Knepp estate in West Sussex as part of a re-wilding project; in the New Forest; and in Oxfordshire. Other organisations are also taking on the work quite independently of us – a development we always hoped would occur.



© Madeleine Ryan

Ponds at Nosterfield Quarry, North Yorkshire

Oxford Floodplain Ponds SITA Project

In 2012 we were awarded funds by the SITA Trust for a project to create new clean water ponds, and manage existing high quality Priority Ponds, on the floodplain grasslands around Oxford. Biological and chemical surveys were carried out at all sites to be managed, to provide a baseline for future monitoring. This provided new Oxfordshire records for the rare priority species Tubular Water-dropwort and the declining Water-violet, and informed management plans. In 2013, practical work was successfully completed at eight sites and has led to the creation of 13 ponds and the management of another 19 ponds.

Flooding in winter 2013 delayed work at 3 sites and this is now due to take place in 2014 leading to the creation of another 8 ponds and the management of another 2 ponds. Monitoring and management plans, prepared in partnership with landowners and land managers, are being prepared to inform the long-term management of these important pond sites.

Catchment partnership projects



Freshwater Habitats Trust staff surveying Oxfordshire floodplain ponds

River Thames catchment restoration project

During 2012 we began a new strategic programme working to improve the catchment of the River Thames (Oxfordshire) in partnership with the River Thames Conservation Trust. The aim of the project is to work with local communities and landowners to protect and enhance the freshwaters in the catchment of the River Thames, a tributary of the Thames immediately east of Oxford. The area provides an important local and easily accessible test-bed for our work, and for the development and testing of new methods to protect freshwaters. Uptake by farmers and landowners has generally been good and baseline water quality surveys and practical work has now been planned in three pilot sub-catchments. Floodplain wetlands have been created at three locations, and are now being monitored for birds and wetland plants. A series of workshops to provide a forum to discuss diffuse nutrients and sediment pollution and catchment management issues were well attended by farmers and other stakeholders, and highlighted the interest of local communities in discussing these topical water management issues.

New Forest catchments

The freshwater and coastal habitats of the New Forest are exceptionally important for biodiversity and remain some of the most unimpacted ponds, lakes and headwater streams in lowland England.

The Catchment-Based Approach (CaBA) is now the national framework for stakeholder-led river basin assessment, planning and management. In 2013 we began the second phase of work in the New Forest catchment, in partnership with the New Forest National Park Authority and the local stakeholder steering group we established in 2012.

We had a number of clear objectives, and working with Natural England and the Environment Agency, we have ensured that nationally and locally important waterbodies were correctly assessed and remained priorities within the statutory planning and management framework. Without the local understanding of these freshwaters, the damage they are currently undergoing would have been overlooked, and several waterbodies would have been excluded from the national monitoring programme due to insufficient information.

We worked closely with the New Forest Land Advice Service to foster local involvement in the project. This included walks and talks and resulted in management work in the Magazine Lane and Becton Bunny streams, removing rubbish from these urban watercourses and encouraging better management of the bankside vegetation. We also worked closely with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to undertake catchment walkovers and interview landowners within the Beaulieu and Lymington sub-catchments to identify key issues and prioritise activities to protect and enhance the two largest rivers in the New Forest.

In 2013 we also produced plans for the Hatchet and Sowley Streams where measures such as interception ponds and banded ditches could be installed to reduce diffuse run-off at a catchment scale. These waterbodies are currently below the minimum standards set by the Water Framework Directive and it is hoped that with the installation of these measures in 2014, they may be significantly improved for biodiversity.



We are helping to protect the UK's last known population of the Glutinous Snail which was once found across England and Wales

Protecting endangered freshwater species in Wales

This project builds on previous work and continues Pond Habitat Action Plan-related projects in Wales.

The aim of the project, which began in January 2014, is to develop and carry out an intensive programme for the protection of critical pond-associated species listed as a priority for conservation action in Wales ('Section 42' species), in partnership with a range of species experts and Natural Resources Wales. The project activities will focus on 11 wetland plant and 10 invertebrate species with restricted geographical distributions. The work programme will be adapted for each species and will lead to a better understanding of current conservation status, a critical review of new clean water pond creation schemes targeted at these species, and the identification of new sites where clean water pond creation or management would enhance populations of target species. In addition, captive breeding will be attempted for the Glutinous Snail, a species which was previously widespread in England and Wales and is now only found in Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake) in Wales.

Mineral Products Association

The minerals industry is uniquely placed to create new high quality clean water ponds on their extensive landholdings and restored quarry sites. The Memorandum of Understanding set up with the Mineral Products Association (MPA) in 2012 was renewed in 2013 and will continue to provide for an exchange of technical and advisory information between FHT, MPA members and other stakeholders within the industry. This will contribute to a greater understanding of the conservation of freshwater biodiversity and encourage the creation of clean water ponds.



Water Soldier, which is native to parts of Norfolk, can be a nuisance when introduced to other areas

© Paul Lacey

Research and monitoring

A key element of Freshwater Habitat Trust's work is the fact that our advice and conservation activities are evidence-based. If there are essential gaps in knowledge, we undertake high quality research to fill these. The results inform our practical activities on the ground, and provide information that we use to strengthen our case in policy and advocacy work.

Environmental DNA

We were invited during the year by Defra to organise a research programme to test a potentially revolutionary new survey method: the monitoring of animals and plants by detecting minute traces of their DNA which are liberated into the environment. In water this DNA can be collected in water samples and then multiplied-up in the laboratory using a technique called quantitative PCR allowing the species present to be identified from their DNA. We tested this method specifically for the Great Crested Newt which is currently proving very difficult to monitor effectively by 'traditional' methods to determine whether its population nationally is increasing or declining, information which the government has an obligation to report to the European Commission.

The project showed that the eDNA technique was remarkably effective at detecting newts. It was more effective than the combined traditional sampling methods (egg searching, bottle trapping and torch counting) and took considerably less time. It was also easily used by volunteers who successfully detected newts at over 90% of the sites where they were present with only simple written instruction to guide them in the use of the method.

Following the successful trial, Defra and Natural England sanctioned the use of the method for Great Crested Newt surveys in spring and summer 2014.

We have continued to work closely with our French partner Spygen, and other laboratories in the UK have also begun to offer the eDNA service. We are now looking at other areas of research to test the effectiveness of the method with endangered species, and with communities.



Barkby Brook, near Tilton on the Hill, Leicestershire, part of the Water Friendly Faring study

Following the successful development of the Great Crested Newt technique we also undertook a small pilot trial for Natural England to use eDNA to detect North American bullfrogs, a non-native species which has escaped in small numbers into ponds in the south east of England. We tested the method early in 2014, before the frog breeding season, a time which was outside the optimum for eDNA detection. We expected that that this might not prove the best time for assessment of bullfrog presence, a suspicion that was confirmed by the results. This confirmed that it will be valuable to compare DNA methods thoroughly with traditional methods when introducing this new survey technique.

Water Friendly Farming

Protecting biodiversity in our farmed landscapes

To underpin our practical conservation work, we need to know what the most effective techniques are for mitigating the impacts of agriculture on freshwaters, and to establish this we are running one of our largest yet research projects – Water Friendly Farming. Working with a wide range of partners (Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Syngenta, the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, University of York and others) we are testing a wide range of practical measures – such as buffer strips, constructed wetlands and interception ponds – to see if we can control the pollution affecting all the freshwaters across the typical farmed landscape.

This year, we continued to employ a full-time post-doctoral researcher funded by Syngenta to run this work, and implement practical works at catchment level, measuring pollutant levels. We also undertook baseline fish and diatom surveys, began intensive monitoring of pesticides, added two new PhD projects to the study, and completed the second year of intensive water chemistry monitoring providing a very fine-grained understanding of the area's pollution status. The plant data from across the landscape is already proving exceptionally valuable to our advocacy work.

New monitoring methods

Developing simple but credible water pollution monitoring methods for citizen science with Earthwatch

The second year of the Earthwatch-led Freshwater Watch project, funded by HSBC, has enabled us to continue essential development work for a long-standing objective: to develop quick but credible water pollution assessment methods that can be used with simple training by anyone from about age 10 upwards. This will underpin work to monitor all the waterbodies – still and flowing – which are not monitored by official organisations. This includes thousands of ponds and small lakes, and tens of thousands of kilometres of small streams, headwaters and ditches – in fact, most of the water environment. We have compared a range of simple test kit methods

with our own laboratory analyses, and also with laboratory analyses carried out by the Environment Agency. The results are not only proving the value of the methods but also providing outstanding new datasets describing the patterns of water pollution across whole landscapes in ways never previously attempted. This work has highlighted just how rare unpolluted water is in the lowlands and the shocking extent of pollution – despite official protestations that 'things have never been better'. During 2013-14 we have been able to eliminate some types of test kit from the programme, as they have proved ineffective, and focussed on the key pieces of equipment.

The European Pond Conservation Network (EPCN)

The objectives of the EPCN are to promote awareness, understanding and conservation of ponds in a changing European landscape. During 2013/14 we began planning the 5th international workshop to be held in 2014 in Saragossa, Spain, in collaboration with the European Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists. Further information about the EPCN can be found at www.europeanponds.org.

Crassula research

New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) is a non-native invasive plant which was introduced into this country in 1911. Since this time it has become widespread and dominant at some sites, raising concerns that it may pose a significant threat to native pond species. Invasive species are of particular concern in areas with currently high biodiversity value, such as the New Forest.

In 2013 we completed a report for the RINSE (Reducing the Impacts of Non-native Species in Europe) project, highlighting our understanding that the impact of *C. helmsii* on native flora and fauna in the New Forest is increasing. *C. helmsii* has wide tolerance limits, but is clearly less dominant at the edge of these limits and its dominance appears to be determined by water quality, the composition and structure of the existing native plant community, level of grazing pressure, permanence of ponds and weather conditions. In some circumstances therefore, *C. helmsii* remains part of, rather than dominating, the native plant community.

A significant reduction in *C. helmsii* was observed following some control treatments, but to date none have been effective in eradicating the plant. *C. helmsii* was able to re-grow to the same or greater extent following treatment, which is highly undesirable in ponds which contain species of high conservation value. The unpredictability of the UK climate, which prevents multiple treatments in any one year, and re-colonisation of *C. helmsii* from adjacent sites, mean that planning a successful eradication programme is unfeasible in the New Forest at this time.

Further research and other control options should be explored, but in the interim, prevention of spread and monitoring to ensure that grazing is sufficient to maintain an open sward for native plant communities will be needed to maintain the quality of these ponds for biodiversity until an effective control treatment is found.



New Forest headwater stream, habitat of the endangered Southern Damselfly

New Forest Pondscape project

Ponds of the number and quality present in the New Forest have been lost from almost every other lowland landscape in the UK. However, there are issues which threaten to undermine this value which could lead to the loss of isolated and vulnerable populations of freshwater plants and animals that have their main remaining strongholds in the New Forest. Freshwater Habitats Trust has been working with organisations, communities and individuals to develop a sustainable management strategy for the ponds of the New Forest. Following the production of the New Forest Pondscape strategy, we are now working to implement some of the key actions and



© Martin Hammond

One of Britain's six species of great diving beetle, *Dytiscus dimidiatus* is only found in pools and ditches of old fens like those of the pingo ponds in Norfolk's Thompson Common

activities which were identified. We have successfully put ponds on the agenda for the lead agencies at the local level. Creating a topography which allows the natural formation of temporary pools (a key habitat for many pond species in the New Forest) will now be included as a standard element of restoration schemes.

In 2013, the Forestry Commission funded a baseline survey of 38 New Forest ponds, to provide information on the impact of management on these priority habitats. Overall, the findings suggest that the majority of the New Forest ponds are of exceptional importance for wildlife. At the landscape scale the surveyed ponds were found to support 94 wetland plant species, 41 invertebrate families and 68 species of aquatic Coleoptera. This included 21 plant species of conservation concern (Locally Common, Red Data Book or NERC Act Section 41 species) and 13 beetle species of conservation concern (Nationally Scarce or IUCN Red List species).

We have also undertaken site visits with land owners to identify sites where pond creation would enhance the pond resource and help to extend high quality pond habitat beyond the boundary of the New Forest SSSI. Finding the correct combination of soil type, landuse and connectivity via grazing stock, moved between the Forest and back-up grazing land has been a challenge but we have now identified a handful of sites where pond creation can take place in 2014.

Plans for the year ahead

2014/15 will be an exciting and game-changing year for Freshwater Habitats Trust in which we aim to build the capacity of the organisation and begin to develop a regional structure that will enable us to deliver more effectively on the ground.

To achieve our long-term ambition of protecting and enhancing freshwater biodiversity, we need to adopt a strategic approach. The first step needed to help deliver this is to find out which critical places remain. In the coming year a key aim is to develop our Important Freshwater Areas assessment as a collaborative project which builds a picture of the core framework of key freshwater sites. We then need to develop models that show how these can be expanded and linked to create functioning networks. Our aim in future years will then be to work collaboratively to ensure this protective network is made a reality.

People, ponds and water

In September 2014, we will know whether our second round proposal to Heritage Lottery Fund: 'People, Ponds and Water' is successful. The project will be a major opportunity for the Trust: it will enable us to engage with new audiences of many thousands of people to raise awareness, gather information about the quality and trends in rare species, as well as protect some of the most important freshwater habitats for the long term.

The project has three interconnected elements:

Clean Water for Wildlife survey: a citizen science project using test kits to compare the quality of all waterbody types: rivers, streams, both countryside and garden ponds, lakes, ditches, canals. The aim is to raise awareness of the true extent of pollution, identify clean water habitats and encourage action to create more.

PondNet: following the successful trials this year, we want to roll out this partnership volunteer surveillance network across England and Wales. The aim is to build up a much-needed overview of endangered species trends and the condition of ponds in different habitat types, feeding this information into a national database.

Flagship Ponds are some of the UK's most important waterbodies, and many will be core sites in the Important Freshwater Areas network. The aim is to work with landowners, community groups and local experts, providing the knowledge and confidence to act as the first line of defence, monitoring, managing and protecting these exceptional sites.



Needingworth Quarry, Cambridgeshire - in 2013 we made an agreement with the Minerals Products Associate to promote pond creation

In addition we will be:

- Completing the Important Areas for Ponds project in England to highlight the importance of Priority Ponds for freshwater biodiversity. We will begin planning this work in Scotland.
- Continuing to develop Phase 2 of the Million Ponds Project, particularly by seeking funds for new practical projects and a national development officer.
- Continuing to develop practical projects regionally, such as our hosting of the River Thames and Ock catchments, and our work in the New Forest, to protect and enhance freshwater biodiversity on the ground.
- Develop practical projects to protect freshwater biodiversity in East Anglia, south-west England, north-east England and Wales.



Marsh woundwort

© Peter Wakely



© Julia Page

Common Toads, a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, have colonised a number of new ponds created as part of the Million Ponds Project

- Developing and refining methods for assessing water quality in citizen science programmes, particularly through research with Earthwatch; in the medium term we will explore the potential for developing a national programme for volunteer monitoring of small water body chemical quality.
- Filling critical gaps in our research knowledge, by maintaining support for work to assess the effectiveness of practical measures to protect freshwater biodiversity at a landscape level through continued development of our Water Friendly Farming project, including the value of pond creation for landscape level biodiversity.
- Having helped introduce environmental DNA (eDNA) to practical freshwater conservation, further explore the role of eDNA as a potentially revolutionary new monitoring method for a wide range of freshwater organisms.
- Undertake policy advocacy work, at national and European level including publishing with the European Environmental Bureau a manual on the management and protection of small waters, and in the UK running a national meeting in Westminster to explain to policy makers and legislators the results of the Water Friendly Farming project so far.
- Develop our programme of information, outreach and communications to ensure that our messages and work are more widely known.

Structure and governance

The trustees (who are also directors of Freshwater Habitats Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Freshwater Habitats Trust is an incorporated charity established and governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association completed in December 2004, under the name of Pond Conservation: The Water Habitats Trust. The Trust was entered onto the Register of Charities, Number 1107708, on 19th January 2005. It was registered as a Limited Company, Number 5317683, on 20th December 2004. Pond Conservation remained inactive until 1st April 2005, at which point it took over the charity "The Ponds Conservation Trust". It subsequently also took over the subsidiary company "The Ponds Conservation Trust: Policy & Research Ltd". The Trust's name was changed to Freshwater Habitats Trust in August 2013.

The Trust is administered by a Board of Trustees, currently consisting of seven members. The Senior Management Team (SMT) reports to the Trustee

Board, and manages staff and activities of the Trust under delegated authority from the Trustee Board.

The financial management and fundraising strategy of the Trust are supervised by Trustees and SMT, reporting and making recommendations to the full board for implementation.

The Trust currently provides an informal induction process for new Trustees. Prospective trustees are nominated for their professional experience and the match of their skills to the board's needs. They are approached by the Chair or an SMT member, the aims and activities of the Trust are explained to them, and they are provided with explanatory information and reports. They are invited to attend a board meeting to learn more of our work and procedures and when possible, to meet staff. On becoming a Trustee, they are provided with explanatory material on Trusteeship from the Charity Commission, and copies of the budget, recent accounts, and recent staff and board meeting minutes.

Public Benefit

The Board of Trustees is satisfied that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2006 Charities Act to have due regard to public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission, and that the mission, aims and activities of Freshwater Habitats Trust meet with these criteria.

Objects

- To advance public education in the conservation and ecology of ponds, wetlands, catchment systems and other water habitats;
- To promote for public benefit the conservation and creation of ponds, wetlands, catchment systems and other water habitats, and their wildlife and historical features, and their prudent use and enjoyment by the public, in particular, but not exclusively, by:
 - a) The promotion and conduct of research and the dissemination of the useful results thereof;

- b) The promotion and conduct of active conservation and creation of ponds, wetlands, catchment systems and other water habitats by landowners and community groups;
- Such other charitable purposes as the Trustees may think fit or such other charitable objects as the Trustees may think fit.

Mission statement

To protect freshwater life for everyone to enjoy.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the operations, reputation, business and finance of Freshwater Habitats Trust. The Senior Management Team (SMT) assess and update the likelihood and impact of material risks on a risk management matrix, which is reviewed by the Board on a quarterly basis at Trustee meetings. Any significant changes are reported to Trustees as they arise.

Health and Safety Procedures are reviewed annually on a rotational basis, with Health and Safety reports as standing items on Board, SMT and staff meeting agendas. Specific risk assessments are carried out for all new activities and field working sites. Health and Safety is a primary element of the staff induction system, and training is provided whenever appropriate.

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2014 is set out on page 24 of this report.

Income

Freshwater Habitats Trust's total income increased by 21% in 2013/14 to £832k (2012/13: £686k). Most of this increase is in Charitable Activities, with projects awarded as contracts rather than grants (£288k, up £121k on prior year): the environmental DNA (eDNA) Great Crested Newt monitoring research project, started in the prior year for a consortium led by Defra, at £139k represents the largest proportion of total income received (17%), and accounts for most of the increase in total funds. Funding by Defra and Natural England for the third year of PondNet totalled £89k, whilst smaller one-off survey and research contracts make up the balance of £60k.

Voluntary grant income of £543k (2012/13: £518k) still represents the majority of Freshwater Habitats funding: ongoing grants received as part of the Environment Agency's Catchment Restoration Fund and Catchment Partnership Fund (either directly or via project partners) totalled £206k. The third year of the 5-year (2011-16) Tubney Development Grant was allocated £75k. New grants were awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop the People, Ponds & Water project (£58k), SITA UK Ltd under the landfill tax credit scheme for Oxfordshire Priority Ponds (£49k), and the Earthwatch Institute as part of their Citizen Science Water project (£31k).

Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2013/14 increased more marginally by 2% to £625k (2012/13: £615k). The fundraising and governance costs of the organisation remain low at 4% of total expenditure (2012/13: 5%).

Charitable expenditure is now split more evenly between the different areas of work:

- Practical Projects including the catchment restoration projects make up 34% (2012/13: 57%);
- Public Outreach and Partnership, including Pondnet and People, Ponds & Water, make up 25% (2012/13: 20%);
- Research and Monitoring, including the Great Crested Newt eDNA project make up 36% (2012/13: 16%)
- Policy spending at only 5% (2012/13: 7%) is still relatively small, but tends not to require extensive external costs.

Reserves position

Closing reserves of £595k are 53% higher than 2012/13 (£388k).

Restricted reserves increased 71% to £252k (2012/13: £148k): these funds represent amounts received and still to be spent on the completion of restricted projects.

Unrestricted reserves increased 43% to £343k (2012/13: £240k): the continued improvement in unrestricted reserves is due to the higher level of contract work awarded in the year, and overall large number of ongoing projects with staff working at full capacity on these, rather than on unfunded work.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have agreed to maintain unrestricted reserves to meet the requirements of Freshwater Habitats Trust's working capital, in order to meet any temporary shortfall in funds or cover unexpected expenditure, such as finding new accommodation, and therefore enable Freshwater Habitats Trust to fulfil its charitable objectives. Working capital is defined as the equivalent of 6 months' unrestricted expenditure.

The Board of Trustees reviews the Reserves Policy and amount of reserves required annually as part of the budget setting process. The unrestricted reserves at the end of this period were £343k and comply with this policy.

Restricted reserves represent unspent monies received from donors who have specific conditions as to their use on agreed projects. These funds are fully covered by matching assets. No project funds are in deficit at the end of the financial year, and the Board of Trustees anticipates that these are sufficient to fulfil project requirements.

The Board of Trustees considers there are sufficient reserves held at the year end and therefore continues to adopt a going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

Approval

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 8 August 2014.

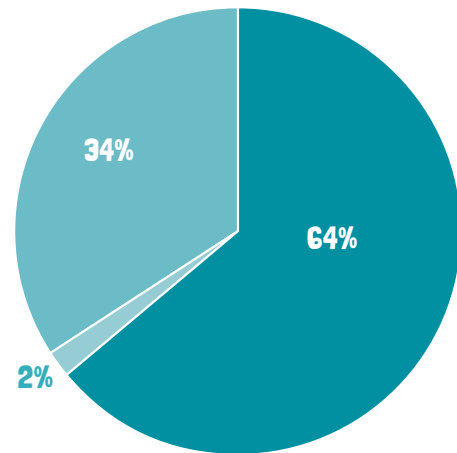


Martin Layer
Chair



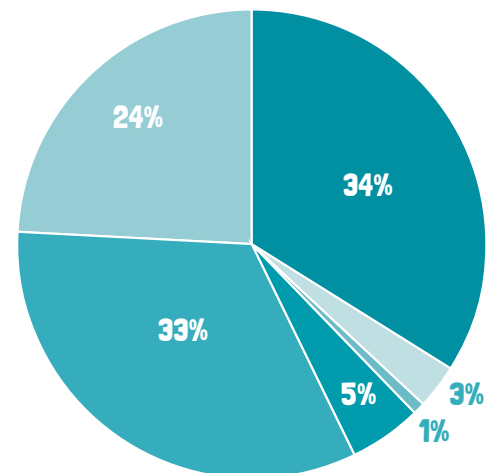
Paul Jackson
Treasurer

Income



- Restricted grants - £534k (2012/13: £490k)
- Unrestricted grants and donations - £14k (2012/13: £29k)
- Income from charitable activities - £288k (2012/13: £167k)

Expenditure



- Policy - £30k (2012/13: £42k)
- Practical projects - £204k (2012/13: £334k)
- Public outreach and partnership - £150k (2012/13: £119k)
- Research and monitoring - £215k (2012/13: £91k)
- Cost of generating funds - £18k (2012/13: £19k)
- Governance costs - £9k (2012/13: £9k)

Independent Auditors' report

to the members of Freshwater Habitats Trust

We have audited the financial statements of Freshwater Habitats Trust for the year ended 31 March 2014 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 26. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 15, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees' Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2014 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit. or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the directors' report



James Blake ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Taylorcocks

Taylorcocks, Statutory auditor, Portsmouth office.

Date: 8 August 2014

Taylorcocks is eligible to act as an auditor
in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.



Sutton Fen

© Paul Lacey

Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 March 2014

(Incorporating the summary income and expenditure account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds year ended 31-Mar-14	Total Funds year ended 31-Mar-13
		£	£	£	£
Incoming resources:					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary income	2	13,428	529,781	543,209	518,392
Investment income		768	-	768	860
Incoming resources from charitable activities:	3	283,689	4,242	287,931	167,088
Total incoming resources		297,885	534,023	831,908	686,340
Resources expended:					
Cost of generating funds	4	3,656	14,548	18,204	19,014
Charitable activities:					
Influencing policy	5	6,146	23,921	30,067	41,973
Practical projects		-	203,935	203,935	334,456
Public outreach and partnership		57,023	93,115	150,138	119,024
Research & monitoring		146,862	67,902	214,764	90,773
		210,031	388,873	598,904	586,226
Governance costs	7	7,621	-	7,621	9,436
Total resources expended		221,308	403,421	624,729	614,676
Transfers between funds		25,649	(25,649)	-	-
Net incoming resources		102,226	104,953	207,179	71,664
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward:		240,384	147,519	387,903	316,239
Total funds carried forward		342,610	252,472	595,082	387,903

Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2014

	Note	31-Mar-14	31-Mar-14	31-Mar-13	31-Mar-13
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11		4,495		-
Current assets:					
Stock	12	620		834	
Debtors	13	252,221		171,359	
Cash at bank and in hand		449,676		487,927	
Total current assets:		<u>702,517</u>		<u>660,120</u>	
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(83,207)		(209,963)	
Net current assets:			<u>619,310</u>		<u>450,157</u>
Amounts falling due in 2-5 years	15		(28,723)		(62,254)
Net assets:			<u>595,082</u>		<u>387,903</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds			252,472		147,519
Unrestricted funds			342,610		240,384
Total charity funds	16		<u>595,082</u>		<u>387,903</u>

These statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 8 August 2014 and signed on their behalf by:



Martin Layer
Chair



Paul Jackson
Treasurer

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2014

1. Accounting Policies

a. Basis and preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (issued March 2005) and applicable UK accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

b. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are those funds over which the trustees do not have full discretion concerning their use.

c. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes legally entitled to the income and when this income can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Any contract income received in advance of the work being done is deferred.

No amounts are included in the financial statements for services provided by volunteers.

d. Resources expended

All expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income. Charitable activities include costs in furtherance of the charity's objects and support costs relating to those activities. Governance costs include

those incurred in the governance of the charity and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. Support costs include administrative staff and central office costs. Where support staff work for a particular activity their costs are allocated to that activity based on an hourly recharge rate. Any remaining support costs are allocated to the charitable activities in the same percentage.

e. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

- Plant and machinery – 25% straight line
- Leasehold costs – depreciated over the period of the lease (5 years)
- Assets costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised and are included in expenditure.

f. Stocks

Stocks and work in progress are included at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

g. Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity in the year.

h. Foreign Currency

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the balance sheet date. All exchange differences are included in the statement of financial activities.

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	31-Mar-14	31-Mar-13
	£	£	£	£
Policy				
John Ellerman Foundation		24,500	24,500	24,500
Environment Agency		2,646	2,646	-
New Forest National Park Authority			-	26,139
	-	27,146	27,146	50,639
Practical projects				
Environment Agency		104,615	104,615	36,308
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust		90,138	90,138	80,993
SITA UK Ltd		43,918	43,918	-
D Clough		5,000	5,000	-
Miller Foundation		2,500	2,500	-
M MacFayden		2,000	2,000	-
A Redston		1,620	1,620	-
Natural Resources Wales		1,924	1,924	-
The Panton Trust		1,000	1,000	-
Pye Charitable Settlement		1,000	1,000	-
Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust		1,000	1,000	-
Michael Marks Charitable Trust		1,000	1,000	-
Alan Evans Memorial Trust		1,000	1,000	-
H R Bull Charitable Trust		1,000	1,000	-
Biffaward (<i>net of 10% contribution</i>)			-	137,728
Countryside Council for Wales			-	32,353
Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2)			-	3,288
Other	-	13,274	13,274	6,149
		270,989	270,989	296,819
Public outreach and partnership				
Heritage Lottery Fund		57,690	57,690	-
New Forest National Park Authority		29,077	29,077	8,785
Other	250	-	250	-
	250	86,767	87,017	8,785
Research and monitoring				
Earthwatch UK		30,873	30,873	3,887
Syngenta Ltd		24,389	24,389	-
Centre for Ecology & Hydrology		9,980	9,980	-
Barbara Whatmore Charitable Trust		2,000	2,000	-
Paul Bassham Charitable Trust		1,000	1,000	-
Clark Bradbury Charitable Trust		1,000	1,000	-
Other		950	950	-

Continued overleaf ...

2. Voluntary income (continued)

Leslie Mary Carter Charitable Trust			-	3,000
The Hamamelis Trust			-	2,000
Martin Laing Foundation			-	2,000
The John Jarrold Trust			-	500
	-	70,192	70,192	11,387
Other				
Supporter Scheme	9,986	-	9,986	10,952
Tubney Charitable Trust	-	74,687	74,687	122,376
The Mackintosh Foundations	1,000	-	1,000	-
Miller Philanthropy			-	7,500
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust			-	2,500
Reed Foundation			-	2,070
The Spear Charitable Trust			-	2,000
Shanly Foundation			-	1,000
The Panton Trust			-	500
Other	2,192		2,192	1,864
	13,178	74,687	87,865	150,762
Total voluntary income:	13,428	529,781	543,209	518,392

Note some grants are given for projects which bridge different areas of activities. Allocations have been made according to where the majority of the work fits.

3. Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	31-Mar-14 £	31-Mar-13 £
Policy	3,025		3,025	-
Practical projects	1,000		1,000	-
Public outreach and partnership	92,202		92,202	90,988
Research and monitoring	176,814	4,242	181,056	74,968
Corporate membership & sponsorship	10,317		10,317	1,100
Other	331		331	32
	283,689	4,242	287,931	167,088

4. Cost of generating funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	31-Mar-14	31-Mar-13
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	2,193	12,422	14,615	13,546
Support costs	1,463	2,126	3,589	5,468
	3,656	14,548	18,204	19,014

5. Cost of charitable activities including grants payable and activities undertaken directly by the charity

	Staff costs	Project activities	Other costs	Support costs	31-Mar-14	31-Mar-13
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Influencing policy	15,624	8,926	-	5,517	30,067	41,973
Practical projects	104,132	77,721	-	22,082	203,935	334,456
Public outreach & partnership	85,719	17,480	7,846	39,093	150,138	119,024
Research & monitoring	79,569	93,667	-	41,528	214,764	90,773
	285,044	197,794	7,846	108,220	598,904	586,226

6. Support costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	31-Mar-14	31-Mar-13
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	21,128	39,237	60,365	45,036
Office Running costs	15,756	29,260	45,016	35,842
Other	994	1,845	2,839	1,476
	37,878	70,342	108,220	82,354

7. Governance costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	31-Mar-14	31-Mar-13
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	900	-	900	4,424
Travel & subsistence	260	-	260	347
Audit costs	4,443	-	4,443	3,456
Other	2,018	-	2,018	1,209
	7,621	-	7,621	9,436

8. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Trustees received reimbursement £261 (2013: £397) in the financial year and no trustees received any remuneration.

9. Employees remuneration

	2014	2013
	£	£
Wages and salaries	314,121	262,787
Social security	30,069	26,004
Pension costs	15,626	13,732
	359,816	302,523

Average number of employees

	2014	2013
Policy	1	1
Practical projects	3	4
Public outreach & partnership	3	1.5
Research & monitoring	2.5	2
Support	1.5	1.5
	11	10

10. Taxation

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

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Costs	Plant & Machinery	Fixed Assets
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 01/04/13	-	4,252	4,252
Additions	4,495	-	4,495
As at 31/03/14	4,495	4,252	8,747
Depreciation			
As at 01/04/13	-	4,252	4,252
Annual Charge	-	-	-
As at 31/03/14	-	4,252	4,252
Net book value			
As at 31/03/14	4,495	-	4,495
As at 31/03/13	-	-	-

12. Stocks

	2014	2013
	£	£
Books for resale	620	834

13. Debtors

	2014	2013
	£	£
Project debtors	179,210	124,626
Prepayments and accrued income	69,098	44,639
Other debtors	3,913	2,094
	252,221	171,359

14. Creditors falling due within one year

	2014	2013
	£	£
Project creditors	11,685	15,334
Deferred income < one year	33,531	74,687
Accruals	8,523	85,170
Taxation and social security costs	29,297	31,020
Other creditors	171	3,752
	83,207	209,963

15. Creditors falling due within two to five years

	2014	2013
Deferred income > one year	28,723	62,254

16. Analysis of funds

	Balance 31-Mar-13 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Fund transfers £	Balance 31-Mar-14 £
Restricted Funds					
Catchment Partnership Fund: Ock, Thame & Beaulieu	-	18,706	13,661		5,045
Catchment restoration - Loddington	27,730	90,138	79,596		38,272
Catchment restoration - Thame	13,161	86,909	48,832		51,238
Citizen science water quality training - France	-	12,700	10,170	(2,530)	-
Citizen science water quality training - UK	-	18,172	13,413		4,759
People, Ponds and Water Project	-	57,690	42,422		15,268
Important Freshwater Areas Pilot	-	5,671	1,057		4,614
Important Areas for Ponds	7,367	-	847		6,520
Pond Digging Fund	5,844	17,198	460		22,582
Million Ponds Project Phase 2	14,520	-	3,692		10,828
NERC Macronutrients	-	9,980	249	(4,800)	4,931
New Forest Catchments	10,984	26,662	14,184	(5,042)	18,420
New Forest Pondscape Project	-	2,415	1,306	(1,109)	-
New Forest Rural Urban Measures	-	8,197	162		8,035
North Leigh Community Pond Project	471	-	411		60
Policy Officer	20,519	24,717	16,179	(6,084)	22,973
Protecting S42 Species Wales	-	1,924	1,924		-
Research (webtool)	9,091	-	9,091		-
SITA Oxfordshire Priority Ponds	-	48,918	48,903		15
Tadpole Shrimp Research Project	2,965	-	674		2,291
Tassel Stonewort Translocation	4,227	-	291		3,936
Thompson Common Pingo Project	10,217	4,950	30		15,137
Tubney Development Fund	20,423	74,687	72,447	(6,084)	16,579
Water Friendly Farming Researcher	-	24,389	23,420		969
Total restricted funds:	147,519	534,023	403,421	(25,649)	252,472
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	240,384	297,885	221,308	25,649	342,610
Total unrestricted funds:	240,384	297,885	221,308	25,649	342,610
Total funds	387,903	831,908	624,729	-	595,082

17. Analysis of net assets by funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 31-Mar-14	Total 31-Mar-13
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	4,495	-	4,495	-
Current assets	378,972	323,545	702,517	660,120
Current liabilities	(40,857)	(42,350)	(83,207)	(209,963)
Liabilities falling due in 2-5 years	-	(28,723)	(28,723)	(62,254)
Net assets	342,610	252,472	595,082	387,903

18. Operating Lease Commitments

As of 31 March 2014 the charity had the following commitments under non-cancellable operating leases.

	Land and Buildings 2014 £	Land and Buildings 2013 £
Expire within one year:	-	6,121
Expiry in one to three years:	21,000	-

Our funders

We would like to thank the following organisations for their financial support this year:

Alan Evans Memorial Trust	Miller Philanthropy
Barbara Whatmore Charitable Trust	Paul Bassham Charitable Trust
H R Bull Charitable Trust	The Panton Trust
Clark Bradbury Charitable Trust	Mr & Mrs J A Pye Charitable Settlement
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust	Reed Foundation
Hanson UK	SITA UK Ltd
Heritage Lottery Fund	The Spear Charitable Trust
John Ellerman Foundation	Thames Water Utilities Ltd
The Mackintosh Foundation	Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2)
Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust	Tubney Charitable Trust
Michael Marks Charitable Trust	Waitrose



Acknowledgements

We work with numerous partners and allies. Our sincere thanks to the many organisations and individuals who work together with Freshwater Habitats Trust to support life in freshwater.

Amphibian & Reptile Conservation	Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust
Amphibian & Reptile Groups of the UK	Helen Edwards, abcGIS
Anglian Water	Minerals Products Association
Biological Records Centre	Natural Resources Wales
Botanical Society of the British Isles	North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre
British Aggregates Association	One Ltd
British Dragonfly Society	Oxford Brookes University
British Trust for Ornithology	Oxford University Wildcru
Buglife	Plantlife
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	RHS
Conchological Society of Great Britain	RSPB
Corinne Welch, Goodthinking Communications	Seacourt Ltd
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Syngenta
Earthwatch UK	The Chemicals Regulatory Directorate
Environment Agency	Trichoptera Recording Scheme
Environment Bank	Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2)
Field Studies Council	University of York
Forestry Commission	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Freshwater Biological Association	Wildlife & Countryside LINK



Patron: The Earl of Selborne KBE FRS

Board of Trustees:

Martin Layer	Chair of Trustees
Hugh Becker	Resigned 17 July 2013
Dr Stephen Head	Resigned 17 July 2013
Baroness Hilton of Eggardon	
Paul Jackson	Appointed Treasurer 17 July 2013
Juliette Jowit	
Professor Lorraine Maltby	
Geoff Phillips	Appointed 17 July 2013
Roger Thomas	

Company Secretary: Ms Jo Fever

Senior Management Team:

Dr Jeremy Biggs	Director
Penny Williams	Technical Director
Dr Pascale Nicolet	Policy & Implementation Director
Janey Forgan	Finance Director
Dr Naomi Ewald	Freshwater Research Manager

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Freshwater Habitats Trust is a registered charity, no. 1107708, and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, no. 5317683, at the above registered address.



Protecting life in water

www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk



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