



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
From	1	January	2015	To	31	December	2015

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Wiltshire Ornithological Society

Other names charity is known by

WOS

Registered charity number (if any)

271033

Charity's principal address

4 Beddoe Close

Bradford on Avon

Wiltshire

Postcode

BA15 1UP

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Paul Castle	Chair		
2	Phillip Deacon	Secretary		
3	John Sealy	Treasurer		
4	Rob Turner	Bird Recorder		
5	Matt Prior	Conservation		
6	Granville Pictor	Outdoor Meetings		
7	Alison Rymell	Indoor Meetings		
8	Graham Deacon	Sightings		
9	Peter Cranswick	Wiltshire Tetrad Atlas		
10	Christine Johnson	WOS News Editor		
11	Andrew Bray			
12	Stewart Dobson	Media & Publicity		
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Society consisting of circa 460 members.
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	The officers of the Society are elected at the AGM – Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Up to a further 10 paid up Executive Committee members may be elected at the AGM.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; • the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; • relationship with any related parties; • trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them. 	<p>The Society is managed by an Executive Committee. The quorum for an Executive Committee meeting is seven elected members at least one of whom shall be the Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary or Treasurer. The Committee meets quarterly, with a formal record taken of each meeting. The Society also has a membership secretary, but this is not a recognised Committee post. Funds are set up by the committee, budgets set and a lead Committee member allocated to represent each Fund at Committee level, albeit the actual Fund 'project manager' may not necessarily be a committee member.</p> <p>In establishing the Committee structure, the Society aims to ensure membership includes links with other related organisations, such as representation from BTO, RSPB and Wetland & Wildfowl Trust; as well as a local conservation officer(s).</p> <p>The Society pays an annual subscription fee to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.</p>
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Section C Objectives and activities

<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The objects of the Society are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To encourage and pursue the study, recording and conservation of the birds of Wiltshire; b. To publish the more significant of its recorded findings; c. To co-operate with similar bodies, both local and national, in the foregoing objects.
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Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

In planning our activities during the year we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our Committee meetings.

The committee uses a spreadsheet to evaluate potential projects against various criteria. The focus of our conservation activities during the year were on Tree Sparrow, Raptor Monitoring and Coate Water Reed Bed.

Working with a local landfill operator and Swindon Borough Council we were able to re-design Coate Water Reed Bed, and also purchase Raptor Monitoring equipment using Landfill Community Funding from Entrust (HM Revenue & Customs).

We produced and published for the public benefit 'Hobby: The Wiltshire Bird Report for 2013', which was distributed to members and made available to the public for purchase. Work on production of the new Wiltshire Tetrad Atlas continued throughout the year with funding committed to website design.

We continued to organise and lead outdoor meetings, visiting new and/or varied habitats (not just in Wiltshire) to encourage and broaden knowledge understanding of species and habitat. Our indoor meetings are focused around guests speaking on a range of various ornithological/nature/wildlife subjects.

We welcome members from across the country (not just limited to Wiltshire) adults and junior, who are encouraged to bring guests to our Indoor and Outdoor meetings to further awareness of our conservation activities.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

All the activities undertaken during 2015 have been on a voluntary basis. Without voluntary support, the Society would not have been able to meet its objects. The Executive Committee is therefore extremely grateful for the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of members to bring the Society to life for the good of Wiltshire birds.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During 2015 the Society has undertaken the following activities:

- a. Monitored and protected Raptor nesting sites;
- b. Tree Sparrow - purchased bird rings and food
- c. Completed the Coate Water Reed Bed alterations project
- d. Engaged a consultant to develop a WOS website/page for future presentation of the Wiltshire Tetrad Atlas results as phase 1 of 2.
- e. WOS members continued to participate in BTO surveys across Wiltshire;
- f. Produced Hobby – the 'Wiltshire Bird Report' for 2013;
- g. Produced 4 quarterly editions of WOS News;
- h. Arranged and held 6 indoor meetings with speakers at those meetings and the AGM covering the following topics: Simon & Mandy Martyn "Tropical Forests - the diversity and complexity of Life", Nick Tomalin "The Wessex Stone Curlew Recovery Project", Dr Mark Avery "The Extinction of the Passenger Pigeon - what are the lessons for us today", Dr Emily Joachim "The Little Owl: Our Vanishing Goddess" and Ian Lewis "What came first the Archaeopteryx or the Egg".
- i. Arranged and held 26 outdoor meetings to: Cotswold Water Park (x3), Slimbridge, North Norfolk, Blashford Lakes, Mark Ash Wood New Forest, By Brook Box, Cley Hill Warminster, Walbury Hill, Pagham Harbour, Martin Down, Speyside Scotland, Winterborne Down, Otmoor, Turf Hill Redlynch, Bently Wood, Steart Marshes, Cornwall, Ashley Walk, New Forest, Heaven's Gate and Shear Water, Bowood Lake, Blakehill Farm, Titchfield Haven and Imber Ranges.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Society doesn't have a reserves policy, but it does operate on a Funds basis. Funds are deposited in a bank, building society or National Savings account and may not be invested in any other manner, nor any borrowing permitted, except with the unanimous approval of the Executive Committee. Funds are classified as General, Designated or Restricted.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The principal sources of funding are: Membership fees, HMRC Gift Aid Tax refunds, the provision of bird data records held by the Society to Land Owners/companies who require information on species population and abundance for which a service is charged, grants (in 2015 from the Samuel William Farmer Trust) and a Gift Aid Donation from Wessex Water, other donations and the sale of clothing, artwork, Birds of Wiltshire and Hobby.

This year the significant amount of expenditure has gone on the production and postage of Hobby and WOS News, Coate Water Reed Bed, Raptor monitoring and Wiltshire Tetrad Atlas.

Any surplus funds which are not likely to be needed to pay for activities are placed on deposit to earn interest.

Section F

Other optional information

Future Plans

The Society will continue to take advantage of Landfill Communities Funding for biodiversity projects and other Grant sources of income focusing on Tree Sparrow and a further reed bed project in the Thames Valley. We will publish Hobby 2014 and make further steps towards the electronic publication of the Wiltshire Tetrad Atlas (phase 2).

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	P E Castle	
Full name(s)	Paul Castle	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	24 April 2016	