Charity registration number 1082163 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 03963387

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr P Tomlin (Chair) Mr D Aslan Mr R Cooke Dr G Hutton Ms A Kershaw Ms L Li Ms E Polychroniadou Ms M Rudd	
Senior Management Team	Dr G Thomas Ms M Henshall Ms H Manders-Jones Ms C Tansey Ms J Taylor Mr M Tetley	Chief Executive Officer Communications & Engagement Manager NBN Atlas Lead Developer Biodiversity Data Manager Head of Finance & Operations Scotland Programme Manager
Charity number (England and Wales)	1082163	
Company number	03963387	
Registered office	27 Old Gloucester Street Holborn London WC1N 3AX	
Independent examiner	Rogers Spencer Newstead House Pelham Rd Nottingham NG5 1AP	
Bankers	TSB 11 Low Pavement Nottingham NG1 7DQ	

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Trustees' report	2 - 6
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	7
Independent examiner's report	8
Statement of financial activities	9
Balance sheet	10
Statement of cash flows	11
Notes to the financial statements	12 - 27

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

INTRODUCTION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Welcome to the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Biodiversity Network Trust, for the year ended 31 March 2025. This document fulfils the Trust's statutory reporting requirements as a charity registered in England and Wales and a company limited by guarantee. A more detailed review of the NBN Trust's activities and achievements through the year can be found in our 2024-25 Impact Report.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing documents, the Companies Act 2006 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 published in October 2019.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Objectives and activities

The National Biodiversity Network Trust ('NBN Trust' or 'Trust') is the UK charity dedicated to biodiversity data. Our mission is "making data work for nature", and our strategic ambitions are set out in the Trust's 2022-27 Strategy.

We manage the UK's largest partnership for nature – the National Biodiversity Network – which brings together hundreds of organisations with an interest in collecting, sharing and using biodiversity data. Our partners include national and local charities, government agencies, Local Environmental Records Centres, recording groups, universities, and ecological businesses. Working together, we create a vast flow of data carrying the evidence needed to protect and restore biodiversity.

At the heart of this flow is the NBN Atlas, our data portal. The NBN Atlas is the UK's largest repository of publicly available biodiversity data, bringing together data from 184 partners. This is a large proportion of our 217 registered data partners. Remarkably, most of the UK's wildlife data is collected by volunteers. Sustaining and growing the volunteer community is essential to the continuing flow of new data into the future. We manage iNaturalistUK, one of the foremost digital recording tools, and support the rapidly growing community of people who use it to record their observations of UK wildlife.

2024-25 was a successful year for the Trust. We significantly enhanced access to biodiversity data, by March 2025 we had shared 299,925,350 records on the NBN Atlas. This included 54,449 records shared through our newly implemented Access Controls system. These records were shared with us at full capture-resolution, but were generalised to a 1km public spatial resolution.

We delivered on major projects which focused on data and technology: specifically, the NBN Atlas Accelerator Project, funded by Natural England and the Environment Agency and our Better Biodiversity Data Project, funded by the Scottish Government and NatureScot, which continued to drive forward improved systems and access to the data needed for the recovery of Scotland's nature.

We, as the lead partner for the popular citizen science recording application iNaturalistUK, continue to support and promote this data tool to new audiences as it gathers momentum, surpassing 139,000 people adding observations for over 6.4 millions observations of UK wildlife.

Our annual conference was hosted by Merseyside Maritime Museum in Liverpool, and featured keynote speakers Andy Cotgreave from Tableu and the Sir John Burnett Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Miles Richardson, Professor of Human Factors and Nature Connectedness at the University of Derby. At the event, we held the NBN Awards for Wildlife Recording ceremony to honour and celebrate those who make outstanding contributions in the field of biodiversity data.

Public benefit

We have had regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

The role of volunteers

The Trust benefits enormously from the support of its Trustees, who are unpaid volunteers. We are hugely grateful to them.

Funding Summary

In 2024-25, we benefited from the following grants, some of which were secured in-year and others continued from previous years. Most are for multi-year projects.

- £580,000 from the Scottish Government and NatureScot to deliver the Better Biodiversity Data Project. (November 2022 to January 2025).
- £181,257 from Natural England and the Environment Agency to implement high priority, high impact enhancements to the NBN Atlas under the NBN Atlas Accelerator project. (January 2024 to March 2025).
- £180,000 from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation towards unrestricted core costs to grow the sustainability, reach and impact of the NBN Trust. (December 2024).
- £120,000 funding from John Ellerman Foundation to build organisational resilience and to enhance biodiversity data to better meet the conservation sectors changing needs. (January 2024 to January 2027).
- £121,050 combined from the following agencies as a contribution towards the NBN Atlas ongoing costs and maintenance. £2,000 Manx National Heritage, £20,000 NatureScot, £15,750 Northern Ireland Environment Agency, £71,400 Natural England and £16,050 Natural Resources Wales.
- £51,281 from the Department of Education to work with the Natural History Museum to deliver the National Education Nature Park project. (January 2023 to August 2025).
- £32,686 from Amazon Web Services as part of the AWS Imagine Grant which supports technical enhancements that will speed up the rate at which we can publish new data on the NBN Atlas. (October 2024 to October 2025).

We are enormously grateful to our members, donors and funders for the support that they provide in enabling us to make data work for nature. In 2024-25, the Trust received £250,021 in unrestricted funds in the form of grants, membership subscriptions, donations, NBN Conference ticket sales and donated services. Membership subscriptions and donations amounted to £136,099 for the year, making an important contribution to achieving our mission.

The Trust's net expenditure was higher than incoming resources, resulting in a negative in-year balance of £84,357. The Trust's total fund balance at 31 March 2025 was £165,029 which will be carried forward into 2025-26.

The Trust is anticipating a balanced year-end position for 2025-26.

We will continue to take forward the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to secure additional income across restricted and unrestricted funding sources. As such, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable level of confidence that the income target will be met. Should income fall short of the target, the Trust will adjust expenditure accordingly.

Trust reserves

The unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserve') held by the charity at 31 March 2025 amount to £92,742.

Annually, the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC, a committee of the Board) reviews the free reserve figure and the amount required to meet the reserve policy (set at three months' running costs) to ensure that adequate reserves are maintained.

As at 1 July 2025, the amount required to run the Trust for three months is £180,007.

Risk management

A Risk Register is maintained to facilitate the management of all significant risks to the Trust, including those pertaining to Finance, Technology, Staffing, Governance and Engagement. The Risk Register tracks changes in the risk level for each risk and documents mitigation. Each relevant Board committee reviews the Risk Register on a quarterly basis and ensures that the Trust has systems designed to manage all risks. The Risk Register is also presented to the Board at each meeting, and the committees may escalate risks to the Board at any time, as needed. The main internal financial risks are minimised through the consistent application of procedures for financial delegation and appropriate authorisation of all transactions.

Plans for future periods

A work plan is in place for 2025-2026 setting out the priority activities for the year. This includes:

- Successful delivery of our major externally funded projects, including enhanced support as the UK node of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, further significant enhancements to the NBN Atlas to improve accessibility of data, and the development of a new data management system for Scotland.
- Building our expertise in data science and data visualisation, to tell compelling, data-led stories that inspire decisive action for nature.
- Release our NBN Atlas Strategy for 2025-2030, built in collaboration with NBN Trust members to ensure we have a clear framework for growth and continue to support the network to make data work for nature.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will continue to operate for the foreseeable future. However, there is uncertainty around some possible funding at this stage. The Trust will be notified about the outcome of a National Heritage Lottery Fund bid in late November / December. If this bid is successful the Trust will continue to operate as it has done previously, for the foreseeable future. If the bid is not successful, the Trust will continue to operate but potentially with a lower staff base covering essential operations only.

Achievements and performance

Please refer to the "Objectives and activities" section above for details of the Trust's main achievements. Further detail is provided in our Annual Impact Report 2024-25.

Financial review

Please refer to the "Funding summary and Trust reserves" section above for the financial review of the year.

Structure, governance and management

The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 3 April 2000 and registered as a charity on 25 August 2000. The company was set up under a Memorandum of Association, which established its objectives and powers, and is governed under its Articles of Association (updated November 2018). As set out in the Articles of Association, the charitable Object (purpose) of the NBN Trust is:

To advance, formally and informally, public participation in and public understanding and enjoyment of the conservation of biological resources, together with their sustainable and wise use, by providing public access to biological records, data or information pertaining to the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

The Trust has power to do anything which is calculated to further its Object or is conducive or incidental to doing so. For example, the Trust has power to undertake the following activities (selected articles only, for the full list please refer to the Articles of Association):

1. *To facilitate, promote and co-ordinate the collection, compilation, collation, interpretation, pooling and dissemination of biological records;*

2. *To promote and facilitate the survey and study of biodiversity through biological recording and both disseminate and promote the dissemination of the results of such study and research;*

3. *Through the provision of services, advice, guidance or other means, develop understanding of how biological data and information can be used to aid decisions taken by others consistent with the Object.*

The terms of reference for the Board of Trustees are laid out in the Trust's Rules and Standing Orders. The Board meets at least four times a year to monitor the Trust's performance, agree the strategy and take decisions regarding governance issues and significant strategic matters.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr P Tomlin (Chair)
Mr D Aslan
Mr R Cooke
Dr G Hutton
Mr T Jagger (Resigned 31 March 2025)
Ms A Kershaw
Ms L Li
Ms E Polychroniadou
Ms M Rudd

Following expected turnover in Board trustees in 2023-24, we are looking forward to the continued evolution of the Charity with the support of our current Board members.

Trustees are appointed via open application and a competency-based selection process. Trustees are able to serve two three year terms. In exceptional cases a third term may be agreed by members at the AGM.

The AGM is held at the annual NBN Conference in November.

The Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) is a permanent sub-committee of the Board. The terms of reference for the FAC were reviewed and agreed at the Board of Trustee meeting in May 2024. The FAC meets four times a year, in advance of the Board meetings, to monitor the Trust's financial processes and provide an audit function.

The Data and Technology Committee (C&TC) was established in 2023-24 and is now a permanent sub-committee of the Board. The terms of reference for the D&TC were agreed at the Board of Trustee meeting in May 2024. The D&TC meets four times a year, in advance of the Board meetings, to monitor the Trust's data and technical processes.

Further ad hoc sub-committees may be convened as needed, on a 'task and finish' basis, to ensure adequate oversight of significant matters.

The Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Board of Trustees and is responsible for the daily operation of the Trust, including (but not restricted to) the development and implementation of strategic and operational plans, financial and team management, stakeholder relations, advocacy and fundraising.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

All Trustees give their time freely and have not received remuneration for time devoted to Trust business in the year. Remuneration of Trustee expenses is detailed within the financial accounts.

Where staff pay increases exceed the Chief Executive Officer delegated authority financial limits, these are presented to the Board of Trustees for approval within the annual budget.

Three employees received total remuneration exceeding £60,000 in 2024-25.

Relationships with related parties and any other charities and organisations

All Trustees and senior members of staff annual update the Declaration of Interest form to notify the Trust of any relationships with related parties.

Donated Services and Facilities

To calculate donated services, the main consideration was whether the Trust would have paid for the work or services had it not been carried out by another party. Based on these criteria, donated services during 2024-25 were valued at £24,752 and included free use of rooms for the NBN Conference and general meeting along with pro bono advice and assistance for legal matters and Trustee recruitment assistance.

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Rogers Spencer be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

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

Mr P Tomlin (Chairperson)

Dated : 6th November 2025

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors of National Biodiversity Network Trust for the purpose of company law, 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).

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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company 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 UK 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 adequate 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 Companies Act 2006. 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.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of National Biodiversity Network Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 386 of the Companies Act 2006.

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Melvin Bailey FCCA DChA

For and on behalf of Rogers Spencer
Chartered Accountants
Newstead House
Pelham Rd
Nottingham
NG5 1AP

Date: 14/11/25

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	204,822	624,223	829,045	189,795	499,866	689,661
Investments	4	9,325	-	9,325	8,457	-	8,457
Other income	5	35,874	-	35,874	30,580	-	30,580
Total income		250,021	624,223	874,244	228,832	499,866	728,698
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	7,733	-	7,733	8,015	-	8,015
Charitable activities	7	326,645	634,947	961,592	230,384	452,622	683,006
Total expenditure		334,378	634,947	969,325	238,399	452,622	691,021
Net income/(expenditure)		(84,357)	(10,724)	(95,081)	(9,567)	47,244	37,677
Transfers between funds		(231)	231	-	25,528	(25,528)	-
Net movement in funds	9	(84,588)	(10,493)	(95,081)	15,961	21,716	37,677
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		179,809	80,301	260,110	163,848	58,585	222,433
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		95,221	69,808	165,029	179,809	80,301	260,110

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**14**		2,477		3,600
Investments	**15**		2		2
			2,479		3,602
Current assets					
Debtors	**16**	44,052		74,116	
Cash at bank and in hand		247,312		269,291	
		291,364		343,407	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(128,814)		(86,899)	
Net current assets			162,550		256,508
Total assets less current liabilities			165,029		260,110
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	**19**		69,808		80,301
Unrestricted funds	**20**		95,221		179,809
			165,029		260,110

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 6th November 2025.

Mr P Tomlin (Chairperson)

Company registration number 03963387 (England and Wales)

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	**26**		(29,591)		45,612
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,713)		(4,422)	
Investment income received		9,325		8,457	
Net cash generated from investing activities			7,612		4,035
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(21,979)		49,647
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			269,291		219,644
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			247,312		269,291

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

National Biodiversity Network Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 27 Old Gloucester Street, Holborn, London, WC1N 3AX.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, 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 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. 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 will continue to operate for the foreseeable future. However, there is uncertainty around some possible funding at this stage. The Trust will be notified about the outcome of a National Heritage Lottery Fund bid in late November / December. If this bid is successful the Trust will continue to operate as it has done previously, for the foreseeable future. If the bid is not successful, the Trust will continue to operate but potentially with a lower staff base covering essential operations only.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors 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.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, grants and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity, being the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Investment income is included when receivable.

Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

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.

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

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.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the sofa on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, as set out in the notes to the accounts.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets 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:

Fixtures and fittings	two 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.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 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.

1.10 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 unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

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.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.11 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 applied to its charitable objects.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.13 Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations	4,165	-	4,165	2,333
Grants receivable	68,723	624,223	692,946	562,664
Subscriptions	131,934	-	131,934	124,664
	204,822	624,223	829,045	689,661
For the year ended 31 March 2024	189,795	499,866		689,661
Grants receivable for core activities				
Amazon AWS Imagine	-	-	-	24,828
Campaign for National Parks	-	-	-	1,032
Caring for Gods Acre	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Enterprise Development	-	-	-	17,395
Environment Agency	5,000	-	5,000	14,015
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	60,000	-	60,000	60,000
Groundwork UK	-	1,659	1,659	19,121
John Ellerman Foundation	-	40,000	40,000	40,000
Manx National Heritage	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
National Museums Northern Ireland	-	15,750	15,750	15,000
Natural England	-	214,750	214,750	109,492
Natural History Museum	-	17,959	17,959	15,115
Natural Resources Wales	-	16,050	16,050	15,000
Nature Scot	-	316,055	316,055	227,900
Other	2,223	-	2,223	266
	68,723	624,223	692,946	562,664

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024
	£	£
Income from unlisted investments	499	6,000
Interest receivable	8,826	2,457
	9,325	8,457

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Other income	1,755	3,056
Donated services and facilities	24,752	17,789
Conference income	9,367	9,735
	35,874	30,580

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Weather lottery costs	114	197
Other fundraising costs	615	1,350
Staff costs	7,004	6,468
	7,733	8,015

7 Charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation and impairment	1,160	2,078
Donated services and facilities	24,752	17,789
Project costs	529,791	270,543
Website development	1,385	1,499
NBN Atlas Project	121,880	180,001
	678,968	471,910
Share of support costs (see note 8)	260,885	191,423
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	21,739	19,673
	961,592	683,006
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	326,645	230,384
Restricted funds	634,947	452,622
	961,592	683,006

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	205,996	148,512
Depreciation	1,676	800
Premises	2,490	7,936
Insurance	2,460	1,632
Travelling expenses	16,737	16,436
Consultancy costs	10,800	-
Communications & IT	5,707	4,977
Postage, printing & stationery	5,114	4,059
Meeting & conference costs	9,668	5,882
Finance costs	173	1,029
Training	65	160
Governance costs	21,738	19,673
	282,624	211,096
Analysed between:		
Charitable Activities	282,624	211,096

8 Support costs allocated to activities **(Continued)**

	2025	2024
Governance costs comprise:	£	£
Consultancy costs	4,728	1,506
Accountancy	874	940
Examiners fees	6,540	6,900
Trustees expenses	2,709	5,039
Board meeting expenses	-	1,707
Legal fees	6,887	3,581
	21,738	19,673

9 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	2,836	2,877

10 Trustees

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

During the year, expenses totalling £2,321 were reimbursed to trustees (2024: £5,039).

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Management	1	1
Senior Management	5	4
Technical	3	2
Officers	8	6
	17	13

Employment costs	*2025* £	*2024* £
Wages and salaries	618,146	386,210
Social security costs	55,766	37,976
Other pension costs	41,127	26,937
	715,039	451,123

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,000 - £69,999	2	2
£70,000 - £79,999	1	-

Pension contributions in relation to higher paid staff totalled £7,720.

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Donated services and facilities

To calculate donated services, the main consideration was whether the Trust would have paid for the work or services had it not been carried out by another party. Based on these criteria, donated services during 2024-25 totalled £24,752. This includes room hire in relation to meetings and the NBN conference plus work on the NBN mapping redesign project.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	17,326
Additions	1,713
At 31 March 2025	19,039
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2024	13,726
Depreciation charged in the year	2,836
At 31 March 2025	16,562
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	2,477
At 31 March 2024	3,600

15 Fixed asset investments

	Other investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2024 & 31 March 2025	2
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	2
At 31 March 2024	2

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Investments in subsidiaries	24	2	2

16 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	1,748	22,131
Prepayments and accrued income	42,304	51,985
	44,052	74,116

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	15,682	11,537
Trade creditors	5,048	8,931
Other creditors	7,221	7,289
Accruals and deferred income	100,863	59,142
	128,814	86,899

18 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 the statement of financial activities in respect of defined contribution schemes was £41,127 (2024: £26,937).

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
	-	-	-	-	-
NBN Atlas Project	-	125,200	(121,880)	(3,320)	-
John Ellerman Foundation	36,035	40,000	(49,517)	-	26,518
Better Biodiversity Data Project	15,155	296,055	(314,761)	3,551	-
New to Nature Project	-	1,659	(1,659)	-	-
National Education Nature Park	-	17,959	(17,284)	-	675
New Atlas Accelerator Project	29,111	143,350	(129,846)	-	42,615
	80,301	624,223	(634,947)	231	69,808

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
	-	-	-	-	-
NBN Atlas Project	-	120,000	(180,001)	60,001	-
Amazon - AWS Imagine	-	24,828	(24,917)	89	-
John Ellerman Foundation	-	40,000	(3,965)	-	36,035
Better Biodiversity Data Project	50,000	212,900	(197,745)	(50,000)	15,155
Enterprise Development Programme	8,643	17,395	(5,408)	(20,630)	-
New to Nature Project	(58)	19,121	(21,790)	2,727	-
Turing Project	-	12,600	(10,000)	(2,600)	-
Nature Education Nature Park and Climate Action Awards	-	15,115	-	(15,115)	-
New Atlas Accelerator Project	-	37,907	(8,796)	-	29,111
	58,585	499,866	(452,622)	(25,528)	80,301

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

NBN Atlas Project
These figures represent contributions from the statutory nature conservation bodies to the annual running costs of the NBN Atlas (see expanded list on page 15).

John Ellerman Foundation
Grant funding of £120,000 has been received from the John Ellerman Foundation, for the period from January 2024 to January 2027. The funding is a contribution to our core costs and will support the following outcomes: the NBN Atlas will be providing enhanced access to UK biodiversity data; we will be better equipped to meet the conservation sector's changing needs; and we will be a more resilient organisation.

Better Biodiversity Data Project
Funding received from Scottish Government and NatureScot to deliver the Better Biodiversity Data Project (November 2022 to January 2025). The project is a partnership with Local Environmental Records Centres and the Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum, and aims to safeguard and enhance access to Scotland's biodiversity data.

New to Nature Project
The New to Nature programme, run by Groundwork UK, provided 12-month employment opportunities in nature organisations for 96 young people from who might not normally have had access to a career in the environmental sector. The programme focused on young people who are from an ethnic minority, who are disabled or who are from low-income homes. We created a new position of NBN Atlas Support Officer, which was 90% funded by the programme from April 2023 to April 2024.

National Education Nature Park and Climate Action Awards
We are a partner in this major project funded by the Department for Education and led by the Natural History Museum. The project aims to make sure every young person in England has opportunities to develop a meaningful connection to nature, understands the concepts of climate change and biodiversity loss, and feels able to do something about it. Our role in the project includes developing resources to help schools utilise iNaturalistUK. The project is currently funded from January 2023 to August 2025.

NBN Atlas Accelerator
The NBN Trust has secured funding from Natural England and the Environment Agency to meet a series of objectives, which include: implementation of high priority, high impact enhancements to the NBN Atlas, and the development of an NBN Atlas Strategy and Route Map. The project runs from January 2024 to March 2025.

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	179,809	250,021	(334,378)	(231)	95,221

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	163,848	228,832	(238,399)	25,528	179,809

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 March 2025:			
Tangible assets	1,139	1,338	2,477
Investments	2	-	2
Current assets/(liabilities)	94,080	68,470	162,550
	95,221	69,808	165,029

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	3,079	521	3,600
Investments	2	-	2
Current assets/(liabilities)	176,728	79,780	256,508
	179,809	80,301	260,110

22 Company limited by guarantee

National Biodiversity Network Trust is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital. There were 8 members of the company at the year end (2024: 9 members). Every member promises, if the charitable company is dissolved while he or she remains a member or within 12 months afterwards, to pay up to £10 towards the cost of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the Charity while the contributor was a member.

23 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	65,907	58,774

23 Related party transactions **(Continued)**

The Trustees believe there is no controlling party of the charitable company.

BioD Services Limited is a 100% subsidiary of National Biodiversity Network Trust. It is a company limited by shares incorporated in England and Wales, company number 04178674.

During the year, BioD Services transferred £499 to NBN Limited (2024: £6,000). As at 31 March 2025 a balance of £4 (2024: £4) remained outstanding to BioD Services Limited.

24 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate charity financial statements for National Biodiversity Network Trust.

Details of the charity's subsidiaries at 31 March 2025 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held Direct	% Held Indirect
BioD Services Limited	United Kingdom	Project management	Ordinary	100.00	
NBN Scotland CIC	United Kingdom	Dormant	N/A	100.00	

BioD Services Limited is no longer trading.

NBN Scotland CIC was incorporated on 27 February 2025. The company is a Community Interest Company (CIC), limited by guarantee without share capital. The company has not traded during the period.

25 Recorder 6 Consortium

The NBN Trust is the agent for the Recorder 6 consortium.

During the year income totalling £10,700 (2024: £10,225) was received in respect of software licences and expenditure totalling £63 (2024: £42) has been incurred.

At 31 March 2025 the balance owing to the Recorder 6 consortium was £60,693 (2024: £50,056).

26 Cash generated from operations

	2025 £	2024 £
(Deficit)/surpus for the year	(95,081)	37,677
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(9,325)	(8,457)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	2,836	2,877
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	30,064	2,199
Increase in creditors	41,915	11,316
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(29,591)	45,612

27 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.