

# CLEAN RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1037414

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Trust

**Registered** 1994-05-09

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 133 Main Street  
Linton  
Swadlincote  
Derbyshire  
DE12 6QA

**Phone** 07885422428

**Email** [hwoop@aol.com](mailto:hwoop@aol.com)

**Website** [www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk](http://www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC AND IN PARTICULAR BY THE PROMOTION OF RESEARCH INTO INLAND AND ESTUARY WATERS AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH.

**Activities:** All aspects of pollution clean up and education

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-11-30	£57,715	£65,195	-	-
2024-11-30	£71,550	£48,729	-	-
2023-11-30	£42,028	£52,019	-	-
2022-11-30	£76,200	£74,058	-	-
2021-11-30	£37,460	£41,094	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DR Matt Johnson		2017-11-01
DR Sally Little		2017-11-01
Dr Samantha Bryan		2025-12-09
LAWRENCE CECIL VAN KAMPEN-BROOKS		2013-05-15
Laura Bishop		2017-09-01
PAUL SOUTHBY		
PETER JONES OBE		
RODNEY GILMOUR		2016-01-01

**CLEAN RIVERS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1037414

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# Accounts

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Clean Rivers  
Trust

Registered Charity No: 1037414

Annual Report  
And  
Accounts  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2025

(1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025)

133 Main Street, Linton, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 6QA

## **Information.**

This report is the legal annual report and accounts of Clean Rivers Trust, as lodged with, and submitted to the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number 1037414. The Charity is based at 133 Main Street, Linton, Derbyshire DE12 6QA..

Founded 1990.

This document is produced and published using environmentally sustainable materials.

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## **Legal and Administrative Information.**

**Trustees;** Rodney Gilmour, Peter Jones OBE, Laura Bishop, Lawrence van Kampen Brooks, Paul Southby, Dr Sally Little and Dr Matt Johnson.

**Director:** Professor Harvey Wood Dip AD, MA, PhD, FRSA, FRGS, FGS, FLS.

**Trust Address:** 133 Main Street, Linton, Swadlincote, Derrbyshire DE12 6QA

**Phone:** 07885 422428

**Web Site:** [www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk](http://www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk)

## **Bankers.**

Barclays Bank plc,

Santander,

## **Solicitors.**

BrowneJacobson LLP, Mowbray House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1BJ

## **Meetings.**

The Trustees convened four times in the financial period 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

## **Policies.**

The Trust reviews its policies on a regular basis.

Current Policies:

COMPLAINTS POLICY  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY  
EMPLOYMENT POLICY  
VOLUNTEERING POLICY  
DISCRIMINATION POLICY  
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY  
SAFEGUARDING POLICY  
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY  
MODERN ANTI SLAVERY POLICY  
Value for Money Projects  
Stakeholder Policy  
Education Policy  
Financial Policy

All our policies are audited in a rolling program to ensure best practise.

## **Fund Raising.**

The Trust raises its own funds. It applies for funding from funding charities and other bodies.

## **Public Access to Activities Information.**

The Trust publishes it's quarterly activities report to the Trustees on its web site ([www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk](http://www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk)).

## **Directors Report.**

This last year has been our busiest ever. It has also seen us move from Birmingham to our new location at Linton, Derbyshire. The move has been useful as we now have space for more research both in the open and in laboratory, greenhouse and workshop. The library has space to grow as well as having more space for users.

The Trust has been active across many parts of the UK responding to threats to the water environment as well as continuing to develop methods of removing and/or remediating pollutants such as pfas in both waste waters and potable supply.

The issues of abandoned metal mine waste streams, both from point sources such as the mines themselves and diffuse sources such as spoil heaps has led to a number of field trials and other research regarding the effects of toxic metals on agricultural practices. It has also started to involve the development of new farming awareness including the examination of historic animal mortality data.

Natural treatment methods of metalliferous minewater is are said to be too expensive in land areas required or fiscally for government agencies to use without European grants or other top up funding from central government (EA. Minexchange Conference 12.11.2025. Cardiff). The Trust, having been aware of this for some time has been considering new approaches). The Trust in the 1990s did much to encourage natural methods of pollution remediation so fresh thinking and approaches to their use may be timely.

Our award-winning trial site in Derbyshire continues to demonstrate natural remediation of a totally damaged environment. The acidic tars are now soils to a considerable depth with no runoff or leaching from the site. The lake which only 3 years ago showed major fluctuations in pH is now stable, aquatic life has appeared naturally, fish are now established along with a remarkably fast establishment of a diverse flora on the surface of the water, This year ducks, geese and grebe have all nested around the shore, heron have been observed fishing. This site has been a success, but there is much more that needs to be done across this huge site. A paper will be published in 2026.

The minewater pollution of the Bransty Beck and Whitehaven Harbour in Cumbria has taken up much time and thought. We provided the Local MP and DEFRA with an options list with realistic costings which were agreed with by the government agencies. The government departments involved, Transport, Energy and DEFRA have agreed to fund the cheapest 'pragmatic' option (MRA 2025) of putting the waste out to the outer harbour beach where the tide will wash most away, diluting the acidity into the Irish Sea. A similar option was used in the 1970s by National Coal Board at Parton, 3km north of Whitehaven. The Mining Remediation Authority hope to bring consultants and an engineering company in during the next year to start the planning process.

The harbour at Whitehaven was clean for a short 6-week period whilst Network Rail surveyed their tunnel and source of the pollution. We introduced them to a specialist company who have mobile remediation kit available. Sadly, costs were cited as being prohibitive to use when the tunnel is not being worked on. Hopefully that might restart in December 2025 or January 2026.

Concern shown by local Speyside communities lead us to put forward their and our concerns regarding taking water from Speyside gravels to manufacture green hydrogen. The effects would have been environmentally dire for the river as a whole and disastrous for the lower section during times of low/no rainfall.

The Trust has supported research being carried out by Imperial College into the use of ceramic air pollution filters. This linking to work we undertook several years ago into using similar material in collecting pollutants from water. This further links with plans to collaborate with the University of Nottingham, to take these concepts further.

Over recent years, and especially since the pandemic we have observed a growing awareness and concern for rivers and streams. The signs of pollution, especially dead fish many people find distressing. The number of people contacting the Trust continues to grow annually. We always ensure the regulators are informed, we also endeavour to respond to people's concerns and try to let them know the reason for such events. We are the only organisation who does this. Many of those contacting us are grateful that we have followed the incidents up and that we let them know why they occurred and what was done to stop recurrences.

As already mentioned above our work with pfas chemicals has taken a major move forward with a project in conjunction with University of Nottingham. A paper will be published in 2026 that will demonstrate a method of removing and destroying these chemicals rather than being discharge into the environment.

Our educational role links us to individual student requests and their projects from a thesis to projects for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme. Our interest in the arts has seen an essay on minewater pollution published in an exhibition catalogue of the work of Alicja Biala, published by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, Poland.

The year ahead is already shaping up to be an equally busy and fascinating one with new projects being brought forward. Each new year is exciting to contemplate.

Harvey Wood  
Director, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025

## **Report of the Trustees.**

The Trustees of Clean Rivers Trust are pleased to report on their governance of the charity for the last year. (2024 – 2025). The activities of the Trust over the last year are recorded in the Directors Report.

The Trustees met formally four times over the last year, but individual involvement was far more frequent.

The objects of the Trust being ‘to advance the education of the public by research and dissemination of any findings regarding the care of inland and estuarine waters and to benefit the environment of rivers and inland waters by the research and the implementation of such research findings.’ The Trustees ensure that the works that have been undertaken are in line with the registered aims and objectives of the Trust. The Clean Rivers Trust was founded as an organisation in 1990 and is governed by a Deed of Trust registered with the Charity Commission in 1994.

The Trustees are mindful that the Trust needs to demonstrate public benefit, ensuring funds received are used for the purposes that they are intended. The Trustees have adopted policies that are intended to ensure all works conducted are always both ethical and honest and regularly reviews them. The Trust does not lobby on behalf of any political, commercial, or ideological entity and has never done so.

The Trustees are pleased to report that the Trust continues to receive support from a wide range of experts and is able to call on specialists from most water, energy, engineering, mineral/mining, and conservation disciplines.

The Trustees continue to audit the activities of the Trust and at the present deem it to be operating in a satisfactory manner and in line with all areas of governance. The accounting is conducted according to directions of and as outlined by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees are aware of the need for a wide base of expertise and talent within the management structure of the organisation. The Trustees have expertise in many areas that are of considerable worth to Clean Rivers Trust and all are engaged in the work of the Trust.

The Trustees monitor where possible the satisfaction of those who contact the Trust for help or advice so ensuring that advice or support given is fit for purpose.

The finances of the Trust continued to be adequate over this last year which has allowed research and other activities which have been reported on in the Directors Report. The Trust has not spent any funds outside the UK in the last year.

As we enter our 36<sup>th</sup> year the Trustees are pleased to point out the continuing development of sustainable solutions to complex problems.

9<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## Accounts.

The following section contain the receipts and payments accounts of Clean Rivers Trust, as set out by the Charity Commission in their letter of September 2015.

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>		
Unrestricted Grants and Donations	43,715	50,050
Restricted Grants and Donations	13,000	21,500
Fees	1,000	0
<b>Gross income</b>	<b>57,715</b>	<b>71,550</b>
Sales of assets/investments	0	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>57,715</b>	<b>71,550</b>

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
<b>Payments</b>		
Rent/utilities/insurance	13,609	12,050
Travel	8,691	4,916
Books/Library	2,250	320
Research (Breakdown below)	38,766	29,696
• Laboratory costs	3,015	4,184
• Field Work	15,128	11,250
• Education	4,004	4,080
• Materials	7,300	2,230
• Health and Safety	896	885
• Equipment	4703	1,268
• Research Assistance	3,720	5,799
Accounting/bookkeeping	405	405
Memberships	660	660
Bank Charges	108	102
Web/internet site	706	580
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>65,195</b>	<b>48,729</b>
Purchases of assets/investments	0	0
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>65,195</b>	<b>48,729</b>

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	£	£
<b>Cash funds at end of year</b>		
In bank 1 <sup>st</sup> December	33,676	41,556
Restricted Funds	400	0
Unrestricted Funds	33,676	41,556
<b>Total available for Trust Purposes.</b>	<b>33,676</b>	<b>41,556</b>
Research expenses due to the Trust under agreement with funder	0	0
Research fees due to Trust	0	0
Outstanding moneys owed by Trust	0	0

**Notes:**

- Most donations of funding to the Trust were unrestricted. Those funds that were restricted being for works in Derbyshire, and Devon/Cornwall which were duly ring-fenced.
- There are no investment assets, nor were any investments sold or purchased during this accounting year.
- No funds were used for projects outside the UK.
- No funds have been received from outside the UK.
- Research costs included the operation of the trust's own laboratory, commercial laboratory analysis of water and other samples, health and safety arrangements, procurement of samples, growing media, tools, and other related items.

## **Independent Examiner’s Report.**

To the Trustees of Clean Rivers Trust (Charity Registration Number 1037414).

This is the sixth year that I have examined the accounts of Clean Rivers Trust.

The accounts and report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025; set out on pages 7 – 10 of the Annual Report and Accounts of Clean Rivers Trust.

<b>Responsibilities and basis of report</b>	<p>As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (“the Act”).</p>
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>I report in respect of my examination of the Trust’s accounts conducted under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and the Charity Commissions guidance for reporting and accounting 2016 as updated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023, also the Act of 2022 that came into effect on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025.</p>
	<p>I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to raise any issue.</p>
	<p>I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p>
	<p>Howard Dodds Examiner 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025</p>

## **Appendix.**

### **Funders and Acknowledgements.**

The following persons and organisations have contributed to the Trust to enable its work to develop. Each donor has been thanked either by email or letter. Some contributors wish to remain anonymous, others include: Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trusts, CHK Foundation, MJ Camp Charitable Foundation, William Dean Trust, Mary Kinross Charitable Trust RG Hills Charitable Trust, GJW Turner Trust, Catherine Holden, Miss KM Harbinson Charitable Trust, Marsh Charitable Trust, Sackler Trust, Paul Bassham Charitable Trust, Sir Hugh and Lady Stevenson, Chapman Trust, Fort Foundation, Sabrina Sutherland Charitable Trust, Edward Cadbury Trust, Sir John and Lady Amery's Charitable Trust, Grimmitt Trust, Blakemore foundation, Anson Charitable Trust, Aylesford Charitable Trust, Edward and Dorothy Cadbury Trust D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, HDH Wills Charitable Trust, CHK Foundation, Wilmcote Charitable Trust, Swire Trusts, Langdale Trust, The Lord Faringdon Charitable Trust and Lindeth Charitable Trust.

The Trust thank the many people who have contacted us over the last year telling us of pollution or other environmental problem. We acknowledge the help of staff from the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Mining Remediation Authority, DEFRA, and Natural England.

Individuals who have aided the Trust and helped in their particular specialist fields include: Nathan Coop, Sophie Annable, Hugh Price, Sean Jackson, Stephen Joynes, Mike Wood and Vic Johnson.

**CLEAN RIVERS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1037414

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# Accounts

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Clean Rivers  
Trust

Registered Charity No: 1037414

# Annual Report

And

# Accounts

30<sup>th</sup> November 2024

(1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024)

73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX

## **Information.**

This report is the legal annual report and accounts of Clean Rivers Trust, as lodged with, and submitted to the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number 1037414. The Charity is based at 73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX UK. Phone 0121 440 8046.

Founded 1990.

This document is produced and published using environmentally sustainable materials.

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## **Legal and Administrative Information.**

**Trustees;** Rodney Gilmour, Peter Jones OBE, Laura Bishop, Lawrence van Kampen Brooks, Paul Southby, Dr Sally Little and Dr Matt Johnson.

**Director:** Professor Harvey Wood Dip AD, MA, PhD, FRSA, FRGS, FGS, FLS, LSDC

**Trust Address:** 73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX

**Phone:** 0121 440 8046

**Web Site:** [www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk](http://www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk)

## **Bankers.**

Barclays Bank plc, Leicester.

Santander, Market Place, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

## **Solicitors.**

BrowneJacobson LLP, Mowbray House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1BJ

## **Meetings.**

The Trustees convened four times in the financial period 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

## **Policies.**

The Trust reviews its policies on a regular basis.

### Current Policies:

COMPLAINTS POLICY  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY  
EMPLOYMENT POLICY  
VOLUNTEERING POLICY  
DISCRIMINATION POLICY  
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY  
SAFEGUARDING POLICY  
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY  
MODERN ANTI SLAVERY POLICY

### Under development:

Banking and Investment  
Value for Money Projects  
Stakeholder  
Education

All the policies are being overviewed at the present time, rewritten, and edited for the acceptance by the Trustees in 2025.

## **Directors Report.**

This last year has seen the Trust busier than ever, research into pollutions, causes and solutions, talking with the public, local and national authorities, consultants, industry, and academics. Projects have continued managing and eradicating acid and other toxic materials. We have found many communities requiring support, both in the form of advice and outlines of solutions. Much of our work is finding solutions to difficulties that have been flagged up over the last 35 years

The country has taken pollution of rivers across the UK as an issue that can be construed as political: there have been two major demonstrations held in London as well as other protests across the nation demanding cleaner rivers and the end of pollution. These demands have seen us redouble our efforts to identify more new sustainable solutions and find more efficient or alternative ways of using older technologies.

## **Main Activities.**

We have started to develop ways of economically removing some of the major problems for both the environment and the water industry. The most spoken about pollutants, PEFAS or for ever chemicals, endocrine disrupters that have effects on both male fish and humans and other pharmacological drugs both prescribed and recreational. The methods are simple in concept but complex in practise. There is still much work to be done.

Our groundbreaking work on acidic tar pits across the country have continued; the work in Derbyshire has demonstrated success with willow roots reaching down to more than 4 metres into the tar, which has broken down into a mix of leaf litter, compost, and other organic matter. Several interested parties including industries and consultancies are visiting the site to learn how this was achieved. Similarly, the acid lake is now a normal water quality with a pH7. Juvenile fish have appeared and a variety of water birds including geese, duck and grebe are present. The reed and rush beds around three sides of the lake have established themselves and the surrounding willows are growing well. Over the last two years we have been looking at fluctuations in the level of water within the lake to understand if it is a purely rain fed water body or if its main source is a feed from the local groundwater. The findings of our study are that the lake is fed by groundwater and acts as a flood water reservoir during limes of high rainfall.

The major minewater pollution of Whitehaven harbour continues to tax us, and the other groups and agencies involved. We, along with the Environment Agency, Network Rail, Harbour Commission, Coal Authority, and the local MP participate in a 'Task Force' to bring answers to the fore and find a solution to remove the pollution from the town. The problem is not the chemistry but how the clean-up is to be paid for. The last time such a pollution took place was at Gurvan in the 1980s when British Coal was ordered by the government sort out the problem. In that instance the situation was different in that the actual pollution could be dealt with in the country outside the town. In this case the pollution originates beneath the town.

The concerns of residents and others regarding the ochre pollution of the New Bank Drain and concerns of possible flood bank breaches close by Hesketh Bank in Lancashire are continuing to be investigated. The residents and farmers of the area appear to have somewhat different views to some parts of the Civil Service who are considering managed retreat in certain parts of the English coastline.

Minewater research and remedial projects are continuing in the West Country, Wales, the Midland and Northern England. In Scotland and Northwest England, we are engaged with feasibility works considering the use of mine heat for use in heat network schemes. The concept we first brought to the UK in the mid-1990s and even now regulators and local authorities have trouble with bringing such projects to fruition. The use of such heat will allow for regional management of minewater and remove some pollutions to rivers.

In Cheshire we are helping a local authority to remediate an old and now abandoned waste tip that is polluting a number of local streams with PCBs and other toxic materials. The questions as to who owns the site and the attendant liabilities alongside the problems of the pollutants. Comparable sites are being examined in Bedfordshire.

Like last summer we were contacted numerous times with regard to possible sightings of pollutions across the country. Many of these events were caused by lack of oxygen, which in most cases were rectified by reoxygenation of the affected waterway or lake. Several other events though were more serious including a cyanide spill into a canal. All contacts that come to us are examined and the correct authorities are informed. Where needed we investigate further to ensure that there is no damage to the waterway is going unchecked.

Our work with universities and other educational establishments continues. The scope of interests and involvements ensures that the Trust has to be aware of many issues that may be brought to our notice. Allied to these areas of interest is the work a Duke of Edinburgh Award candidate is conducting for us, firstly they are examining the water of the River Lee and River Lee Navigation. Alongside this they are rewriting and bringing our Trust's policies up to date in collaboration with the Trustees.

In the field of the arts, we have drafted a short paper for the Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, on acid minewater. The museum is holding an exhibition of work by the artist Alicja Biala who has used acidic minewater to etch large metal screens. Some of her work she created in the UK after being in contact with us two years ago when she was at the Royal College of Art, London.

As a charity we find many organisations show interest in our activities and then attempt to emulate our research. We are happy that our research is followed but at times it would be pleasing to be credited with at least conducting initial research. As can be seen from the above it has been another fascinating year and as we go into our 35<sup>th</sup> year we anticipate a similar varied workload.

Harvey Wood.

Director. December 2024.

## **Report of the Trustees.**

The Trustees of Clean Rivers Trust are pleased to present their report on the governance of the charity for the last year (2023 to 2024). The activities of the Trust over the last year are outlined in the Directors Report. The Trustees met formally four times in the last year but other involvement by individual trustees is much more frequent.

The objects of the Trust being ‘to advance the education of the public by research and dissemination of any findings regarding the care of inland and estuarine waters and to benefit the environment of rivers and inland waters by the research and the implementation of such research findings. The Trustees ensure that the works that have been undertaken are in line with the registered aims and objectives of the Trust. The Clean Rivers Trust was founded as an organisation in 1990 and is governed by a Deed of Trust registered with the Charity Commission in 1994.

The Trustees are mindful that the Trust needs to demonstrate public benefit, ensuring funds received are used for the purposes that they are intended. The Trustees have adopted policies that are intended to ensure all works conducted are always both ethical and honest and regularly reviews them. The Trust does not lobby on behalf of any political, commercial, or ideological entity and has never done so.

The Trustees are pleased to report that the Trust continues to receive support from a wide range of experts and is able to call on specialists from most water, energy, engineering, mineral/mining, and conservation disciplines.

A continuous audit by the Trustees demonstrates the Trust to be satisfactory in all areas of governance. The accounting is conducted according to directions of and as outlined by the Charity Commission. The Trustees are aware of the need for a wide base of expertise and talent within the management structure of the organisation. The Trustees have expertise in many areas that are of considerable worth to Clean Rivers Trust and all are engaged in the work of the Trust.

The Trustees audit the satisfaction of those who contact the Trust, so ensuring that the advice and support received is fit for purpose and acceptable.

The finances of the Trust continued to be adequate over this last year which has allowed research and other activities which have been reported on in the Directors Report. The Trust has not spent any funds outside the UK in the last year.

As we enter our 35<sup>th</sup> year the Trustee are delighted with the organisation’s developments in treating complex pollutants sustainably. It will take some time to demonstrate a fully functional set of methodologies.

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

## Accounts.

The following section contain the receipts and payments accounts of Clean Rivers Trust, as set out by the Charity Commission in their letter of September 2015.

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>		
Unrestricted Grants and Donations	50,050	32,028
Restricted Grants and Donations	21,500	10,000
Fees	0	0
<b>Gross income</b>	<b>71,550</b>	<b>42,028</b>
Sales of assets/investments	0	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>71,550</b>	<b>42,028</b>

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
<b>Payments</b>		
Rent/utilities/insurance	12,050	12,020
Travel	4,916	4,300
Books/Library	320	220
Research (Breakdown below)	29,696	33,864
• Laboratory costs	4,184	4,680
• Field Work	11,250	8,180
• Education	4,080	4,497
• Materials	2,230	1,180
• Health and Safety	885	809
• Equipment	1,268	1,521
• Research Assistance	5,799	12,997
Accounting/bookkeeping	405	405
Memberships	660	540
Bank Charges	102	120
Web/internet site	580	550
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>48,729</b>	<b>52,019</b>
Purchases of assets/investments	0	0
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>48,729</b>	<b>52,019</b>

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
<b>Cash funds at end of year</b>		
In bank 1 <sup>st</sup> December	41,556	18,735
Restricted Funds	0	0
Unrestricted Funds	41,556	18,735
<b>Total available for Trust Purposes.</b>	<b>41,556</b>	<b>18,735</b>
Research expenses due to the Trust under agreement with funder	0	0
Research fees due to Trust	0	0
Outstanding moneys owed by Trust	0	0

**Notes:**

- Most donations of funding to the Trust were unrestricted. Those funds that were restricted being for works in Derbyshire, and Devon which were duly ring-fenced.
- There are no investment assets, nor were any investments sold or purchased during this accounting year.
- No funds were used for projects outside the UK.
- No funds have been received from outside the UK.
- Research costs included the operation of the trust's own laboratory, commercial laboratory analysis of water and other samples, health and safety arrangements, procurement of samples, growing media, tools, and other related items.

## **Independent Examiner’s Report.**

To the Trustees of Clean Rivers Trust (Charity Registration Number 1037414).

This is the fifth year that I have examined the accounts of Clean Rivers Trust.

The accounts and report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024; set out on pages 7 – 10 of the Annual Report and Accounts of Clean Rivers Trust.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (“the Act”).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust’s accounts conducted under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and the Charity Commissions guidance for reporting and accounting 2016 as updated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to raise any issue.

I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Howard Dodds

Examiner

1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

## **Appendix.**

### **Funders and Acknowledgements.**

The following persons and organisations have contributed to the Trust to enable its work to develop. Each donor has been thanked either by email or letter. Some contributors wish to remain anonymous, others include: Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trusts, MJ Camp Charitable Foundation, Mary Kinross Charitable Trust RG Hills Charitable Trust, GJW Turner Trust, Catherine Holden, Miss KM Harbinson Charitable Trust, Marsh Charitable Trust, Sackler Trust, Paul Bassham Charitable Trust, Sir Hugh and Lady Stevenson, Chapman Trust, Fort Foundation, Englefield Charitable Trust, David Family Foundation, Sir John and Lady Amery's Charitable Trust, William A Cadbury Charitable Trust, Blakemore foundation, Anson Charitable Trust, Aylesford Charitable Trust, Edward and Dorothy Cadbury Trust D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, CHK Foundation, Wilmcote Charitable Trust, Swire Trusts, Langdale Trust, The Lord Faringdon Charitable Trust and de Brye Charitable Trust.

The Trust thank the many people who have contacted us over the last year telling us of pollution or other environmental problem. We acknowledge the help of staff from the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Coal Authority, DEFRA, Natural England, Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council,

Individuals who have aided the Trust and helped in their particular specialist fields: Nathan Coop, Sophie Annable, Hugh Price, and Vic Johnson.

**CLEAN RIVERS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1037414

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# Accounts

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Clean Rivers  
Trust

Registered Charity No: 1037414

Annual Report

And

Accounts

30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

(1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023)

73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX

**Information.**

This report is the legal annual report and accounts of Clean Rivers Trust, as lodged with, and submitted to the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number 1037414. The Charity is based at 73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX UK. Phone 0121 440 8046.

Founded 1990.

This document is produced and published using environmentally sustainable materials.

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**Legal and Administrative Information.**

**Trustees;** Rodney Gilmour, Peter Jones OBE, Laura Bishop, Lawrence van Kampen Brooks, Paul Southby, Dr Sally Little and Dr Matt Johnson.

**Director:** Professor Harvey Wood Dip AD, MA, PhD, FRSA, FRGS, FGS, FLS, LSDC

**Trust Address:** 73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX

**Phone:** 0121 440 8046

**Web Site:** [www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk](http://www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk)

**Bankers.**

Barclays Bank plc, Market Place, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Santander, Market Place, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

**Solicitors.**

BrowneJacobson LLP, Mowbray House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1BJ

**Meetings.**

The Trustees convened four times in the financial period 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

## **Policies.**

The Trust reviews its policies on a regular basis.

### Current Policies:

COMPLAINTS POLICY  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY  
EMPLOYMENT POLICY  
VOLUNTEERING POLICY  
DISCRIMINATION POLICY  
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY  
SAFEGUARDING POLICY  
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

### Policies being developed:

Banking and Investment  
Value for Money Projects  
Stakeholder  
Education

## **Directors Report.**

The past year has been busy, we have been involved in projects from the Highlands of Scotland to near the southern tip of Cornwall, from western Wales to Norfolk in the east. The issues we have had to contend have been diverse: low flows and abstraction, oxygen depletion and fish deaths, pollutions including minewater, silts, contaminated land, chemicals, and road runoff.

The last year has seen the quality of river water rise in the public consciousness, combined stormwater overflows that appear to run for far longer than they need, illnesses from swimming in rivers, industrial discharges that are not consented on a scale not seen since the 1980s and much besides.

## **Main Activities.**

In Scotland we have been looking at the problems of low flows along most of the River Spey and in the upper reaches at times no flows at all due to the abstraction of water to generate hydroelectric supplies for industry in the Fort William area. The low flows have been responsible for one major salmon and sea trout mortality event with more than fifty fish dying in one day over a short stretch of the river. The answers to this problem are straight forward but the implementation will take time as the issues of employment, alternative 'green' electricity supply to the area and negotiations with industry may be protracted. Another major abstraction for hydroelectricity is taken from lower down the river and also raises concerns at times of low rainfall and low flow. The water from both abstractions do not get returned to the catchment and in the case of the second abstraction increases flow into another catchment.

The harbour at Whitehaven in Cumberland is fed by three streams that are culverted beneath the town itself. One of these culverted becks is now the conduit for acidic minewater that has stained the harbour and its water ochre red and has driven much sea life that was present out except an alien species of tube worm which is driving many of the yachts and other boats away from the harbour. We have offered answers to the Coal Authority, Environment Agency, and the Harbour Commissioners a short and long-term solution to the pollution and we are working with local boat owners and other local people to bring the situation under control as rapidly as possible. It was a year this last November since the pollution first took place and thousands of litres per hour of polluted water are entering the harbour. The Solway Marine Nature Reserve is just beyond the harbour entrance and that is also being affected by the iron and other metals that are flowing out of the harbour and into the Solway Estuary.

Just outside Chester is an old clay pit that has been filled with acidic tars from the nearby oil refining industry. The site was used in the 1960s and was meant to solidify. Instead, it is seeping out of the banks of the filled void and flowing into the headwaters of the River Gowy., an important eel river. The Environment Agency are trying to come to an accommodation with the 'polluters' and have been since their formation in 1996. We have offered to carry out a trial of a solution we have demonstrated in Derbyshire on a

similar material which the Environment Agency find satisfactory and inexpensive. This offer has yet to be accepted.

The River Glaven is a small chalk stream river that flows out into the North Sea via Blakeney on the north Norfolk coast. It is a river that is popular with the Rivers Trust, and other sea trout enthusiasts who are trying to encourage their return and there are<sup>i</sup> several specialist groups who are rewilding parts of its length. Our involvement has come about due to the installation of the electrical connector from a major offshore wind farm that is linked to the north Norfolk coast and travels across the upper Glaven catchment. Initial works saw large volumes of mud and silts enter the river's head waters. Many interested locals feared the silts were damaging the habitat of white clawed crayfish and other aquatic life.

Our long-term acid tar project in Derbyshire is coming to the end of its 5<sup>th</sup> year. We have demonstrated that the use of spent mushroom compost planted with willows and poplars can encourage naturally occurring bacteria to neutralise acidity from pH 0 to pH 6.8. The tars themselves have been broken down to a form of soil with earthworms present to a depth of 3 – 4 metres. The surface where nothing lived or even passed over the surface is now home to Great Crested newts, toads, wood mice, snails, and slugs. Grass snakes have been found, birds nested, and deer have entered, browsing some of the willows flat, though they have regrown.

The water in the acid lake on the site is now pH 7, when we started it was pH 3. We have found an increase in dragonfly species and increasing numbers of other lava including Alder fly. We have installed limestone gabions to stop further acid entering from another tar pit that has yet to be remediated. There is still much work to do, both at the tar pits and lake in the coming years.

The most difficult problem has been a return of vandalism after four years of no problems. Recently people have emptied a gabion by the lake and thrown the limestone rocks into it. Worse has occurred on the acid tar pit where many of the willow trees have been uprooted and broken by young people with quad bikes. To get at the site on their machines the vehicles have been driven at the 8-foot-high, strong fences and broken through. We have installed two trail cameras, but these have been discovered and removed. The police say there is little they can do as the site is too isolated.

In south Wales the Trust has been advising local groups contending with old, pre 1978 landfill sites that have a cocktail of contaminants discharging from them and entering local streams. Our involvement has been based on methods of managing leachate as well as how best to work with Natural Resources Wales, local authorities, and ways the sites may be economically remediated. In England one site in Shropshire is linked to this work; an important hill fort (Sutton Walls) that was used in the 1960s and 1970s for dumping PCBs which were interred in the middle of the ancient monument. There is great concern expressed by local people who have been told not to use their wells for watering plants or vegetables. The River Lugg, (a tributary of the troubled River Wye) close by is also at risk from the plume of contamination.

In early summer we had a large number of telephone calls and emails from concerned members of the public from the West Midlands telling us of perceived pollution and fish deaths. We investigated all those that have been brought to our attention and ensured that the Environment Agency had been made aware. In June and July most of those contacting us talked of fish mortalities on the Rivers Cole and Anchor along with other reports of fish with breathing difficulties. We met with several of those who contacted us and saw the problems first hand. All these events were brought about by oxygen sags in the rivers. These events can take place when there are thunderstorms in an area. Sudden changes in atmospheric pressure can lead to drops in oxygen present in rivers. It is a natural occurrence but for those witnessing fish struggling to breath can be traumatic. the Environment Agency installed pumps to reoxygenate the water at several points.

In Devon and Cornwall, we have continued our work on minewater treatment methods. This area of work has been a core area of expertise developed over more than thirty years. We have been working with new mines being planned for lithium and copper/tin extraction. It has been a new experience for the Trust to look towards planning for the care of the environment prior to any threat.

On the River Wye we have been putting forward ideas of how farms might minimise nutrient run off. We have made design plans for wetlands available along with other methods of managing chicken farm waste. It has been gratifying to find that there is a gradual move in the area to look at better nutrient management.

### **Other Areas of Activity.**

- The Trust has engaged with various bodies, local authorities, and developers to encourage the use of heat from the water in the many abandoned mines that are beneath much of Britain. The benefits are many and might include low-cost heat for areas of fuel poverty and allow new methods of managing water in abandoned coalfields.
- The bacteria and fungi that have been discovered at the tar pit in Derbyshire are continuing to be studied at the University of Nottingham. The various samples have found a range of environmental benefits. Many forms of difficult plastics are now found to be destroyed by these growths without damage to the environment, whilst some bacteria are found to support others or fungi to cope with and flourish in otherwise dangerous environments.
- Support for the ongoing archaeological investigations regarding water management in winter during the last siege of Newark (1645-46). This is now possibly linked to an engineered floating meadow system of irrigation of grasslands that was likely to have been developed in the 1500s. Research into modern versions may prove to be useful carbon sequestration sites.
- Mine wastes and spoil heaps are a problem for several rivers and stream across the country, particularly metalliferous mining areas where there may be many problems including that of acidic leaching. We have been consulted by several organisations regarding such problems this year.

- Dams, tailings dams and agricultural and other reservoirs have featured in several requests for information and guidance.
- The Trust has had several requests for guidance regarding the River Thames and some of its tributaries from Twickenham to the Essex Marshes. These have varied from whether sewage might be treated at certain treatment works and the waters recycled through north London drinking water reservoirs, to the water quality and upkeep of the River Roding. Also, what wastes were historically dumped on parts of the marshland in Essex adjacent to the Thames.
- Flood defences, flood protection and suitable barriers are a growing area of interest for individuals and parish councils. We have looked at several areas of the country where requests for information have been made. Several requests have been steered towards the Environment Agency, along with suggestions for alternative flood defence methods such as leaky dams..

Clean Rivers Trust find we have an increasing roll supporting people who have been affected by pollution. The distress that people feel when they witness fish in distress or water that is foul. The importance of rivers, streams, and brooks to much of the population is profound. Many people feel cut off from knowledge that answers their concerns and questions. Since Covid it has become clear how important local waters are to the populations' health; physical and mental. We answer everyone who contacts us.

Harvey Wood.  
Director

1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

### **Report of the Trustees.**

The Trustees of Clean Rivers Trust are pleased to present their report on the management of the charity for the last year (2022 to 2023). The activities of the Trust over the last

year are outlined in the Directors Report. The Trustees met formerly four times in the last year but other involvement by individual trustees is much more frequent.

The objects of the Trust being ‘to advance the education of the public by research and dissemination of any findings regarding the care of inland and estuarine waters and to benefit the environment of rivers and inland waters by the research and the implementation of such research findings. The Trustees ensure that the works that have been undertaken are in line with the registered aims and objectives of the Trust. The Clean Rivers Trust was founded as an organisation in 1990 and is governed by a Deed of Trust registered with the Charity Commission in 1994.

The Trustees are mindful that the Trust needs to demonstrate public benefit, ensuring funds received are used for the purposes that they are intended. The Trustees have adopted policies that are intended to ensure all works carried out are always both ethical and honest and regularly reviews them. The Trust does not lobby on behalf of any political, commercial, or ideological entity and has never done so.

The Trustees are pleased to report that the Trust continues to receive support from a wide range of experts and is able to call on specialists from most water, energy, engineering, mineral/mining, and conservation disciplines.

A continuous audit of the Trustees abilities demonstrates it to be satisfactory and all areas of governance are represented by the composition of the body. The accounting is conducted according to directions of and as outlined by the Charity Commission. The Trustees are aware of the need for a wide base of expertise and talent within the management structure of the organisation and function as Trustees of the Trust. Those who are at present Trustees all have expertise in areas that are of considerable worth to Clean Rivers Trust and do not just function as a body for meetings.

The Trusts bankers have carried out due diligence checks on the charity’s funding and our probity. This was a long and tedious exercise but was concluded satisfactorily.

The finances of the Trust continued to be adequate over this last year which has allowed research and other activities which have been reported on in the Directors Report. The Trust has not spent any funds outside the UK in the last year.

5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Accounts.

The following section contain the receipts and payments accounts of Clean Rivers Trust, as set out by the Charity Commission in their letter of September 2015.

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>		
Unrestricted Grants and Donations	32,028	44,000
Restricted Grants and Donations	10,000	32,200
Fees	0	0
<b>Gross income</b>	<b>42,028</b>	<b>76,200</b>
Sales of assets/investments	0	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>42,028</b>	<b>76,200</b>

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Payments</b>		
Rent/utilities/insurance	12,020	10,950
Travel	4,300	4,790
Books/Library	220	2,782
Research	(Totals £33,864	£53,689)
• Laboratory costs	4,680	4,260
• Field Work	8,180	8,850
• Education	4,497	4,547
• Materials	1,180	7,080
• Health and Safety	809	2,239
• Equipment	1,521	1,842
• Research Assistance	12,997	24,871
Accounting/bookkeeping	405	405
Memberships	540	780
Bank Charges	120	112
Web/internet site	550	550
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>52,019</b>	<b>74,058</b>
Purchases of assets/investments	0	0
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>52,019</b>	<b>74,058</b>

2023

2022

	£	£
<b>Cash funds at end of year</b>		
In bank 1 <sup>st</sup> December	18,735	28,726
Restricted Funds	0	0
Unrestricted Funds	18,735	28,726
<b>Total available for Trust Purposes.</b>	<b>18,735</b>	<b>28,726</b>
Research expenses due to the Trust under agreement with funder	0	0
Research fees due to Trust	0	0
Outstanding moneys owed by Trust	0	0

**Notes:**

- Most receipts of funding were unrestricted. Those funds that were restricted being for works in Derbyshire, and Devon which were duly ring-fenced.
- There are no investment assets, nor were any investments sold or purchased during this accounting year.
- No funds were used for projects outside the UK.
- No funds have been received from outside the UK.
- Research costs included the operation of the trust's own laboratory, commercial laboratory analysis of water and other samples, health and safety arrangements, procurement of samples, growing media, tools, and other related items.
- The library: valuation of books being a difficult subject today due to the availability of many texts on-line.

## **Independent Examiners Report.**

To the Trustees of Clean Rivers Trust (Charity Registration Number 1037414).

This is the fourth year that I have examined the accounts of Clean Rivers Trust.

The accounts and report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023; set out on pages 9 – 12 of the Annual Report and Accounts of Clean Rivers Trust.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (“the Act”).

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to raise any issue.

I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Howard Dodds

Examiner

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

# **Appendices.**

## **I**

### **Funders and Acknowledgements.**

The following persons and organisations have contributed to the Trust to enable its work to develop. Each donor is thanked by letter or e mail, whichever is the preferred method of communication. Some organisations who contributed to Clean Rivers Trust over the last financial year wished to remain anonymous, others included the Frogna Trust, The Henry Hoare Charitable Trust, the Sir John and Lady Amory Charitable Trust, Limoges Trust, the Anson Charitable Trust, The Chapman Charitable Trust, The Fort Foundation, Martin Wills Wildlife Maintenance Trust, the Gladys Wightwick Charitable Trust, The Owen Family Trust, David Ure Memorial Sabina Sutherland Charitable Trust, The Percy Lee Charitable Trust, Trust, Marsh Charitable Trust, William Dean Trust, John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust, GJW Turner Trust, GMC Trust, Hetherington Trust, and The Harbinson Trust.

The Trust acknowledges the support in time and practical assistance to the following people and organisations; Eur Ing Victor A Johnson, Nathan Coop, Sophie Annable, Hugh Price, Severn Trent Services, the Coal Authority, Shaun Walters, Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Natural England, and many others who have given their time and expertise.

## **II**

### **Library.**

The library continues to be of importance to both the organisation and outside researchers alike. It holds reports dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and its comprehensive river related documents from the 1990s produced by the National Rivers Authority and Environment Agency are amongst the most complete available.

The Trust continues to welcome researchers to the library by appointment.

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**CLEAN RIVERS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1037414

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# Accounts

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Clean Rivers  
Trust

Registered Charity No: 1037414

Annual Report

And

Accounts

30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

(1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022)

73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX

**Information.**

This report is the legal annual report and accounts of Clean Rivers Trust, as lodged with, and submitted to the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number 1037414. The Charity is based at 73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX UK. Phone 0121 440 8046.

This document is produced and published using environmentally sustainable materials.

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**Legal and Administrative Information.**

**Trustees;** Rodney Gilmour, Peter Jones OBE, Laura Bishop, Lawrence van Kampen Brooks, Paul Southby, Dr Sally Little and Dr Matt Johnson.

**Director:** Professor Harvey Wood Dip AD, MA, PhD, FRSA, FRGS, FGS, FLS, LSDC  
[hwoop@aol.com](mailto:hwoop@aol.com) . 07885 422428

**Trust Address:** 73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX  
**Phone:** 0121 440 8046

**Web Site:** [www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk](http://www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk)

**Bankers.**

Barclays Bank plc, Market Place, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Santander, Market Place, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

**Solicitors.**

BrowneJacobson LLP, Mowbray House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1BJ

**Meetings.**

The Trustees convened four times in the financial period 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

## **Directors Report.**

The last twelve months have seen a great increase in activity for the Trust. There has been a post-pandemic leap forward in activity. Field work has increased as has the scope of projects. Research into solutions for major issues like the eutrophication of the River Wye has seen research into new areas such as waste handling and machinery. The developing of new partnerships with local and national industrial companies.

The relief that social distancing ceased has been notable, meetings and field work have returned to a more normal state of affairs. This has though been tempered by the amount of bird flu that has been witnessed across the country so requiring the Trust to maintain a high level of biosecurity whilst in the field where waterfowl have been present.

Our major Tar Pit Project at Cinderhill has seen an increase in activity. A new layer of compost was placed across much of the site which added to the nutrient on the site. Much of the compost placed on the site initially has now been incorporated into the tars by microbial and earthworm activity as the tars are broken down. Many of the trees planted as cuttings or horizontal whips have grown up to 5 metres in height and developed well. The tree growth has suffered this year from the record temperatures recorded on site during the drought this summer. The trees have also been attacked by infestations of Giant Willow aphid which have had a detrimental effect on them. We sought expert advice that originally informed the Trust that the aphids would have no impact on growth, this was patently wrong' later advice from New Zealand confirmed that the infestations had to be controlled. This was carried out by removal from the plants by hand.

A fungus has been discovered on site that is breaking down the tars has been found by the University of Nottingham to also break down PVCs, the first natural organism to be identified that is able to do so. The fungi are believed to be new to science and may have a place in the breakdown of certain plastic pollutions.

A lake filled with acidic water on the site has now had its initial remedial treatment using limestone filled gabions. The wetlands are developing around the edges of the lake and increasing habitat value. The acidity of the water is improving and once a winter of rainfall recharges the feed aquifer water quality will benefit the increasing populations of dragonfly and alderfly.

The findings from our work at Cinderhill are to be published very shortly, slightly later than was anticipated but with the discovery of new fungi and bacteria involved in the remediation of the tars they needed to be included.

Tar pits are present across many parts of the UK, most are hidden and have been lost from the records of local authorities due to changes in local government since the 1970s. the effects they have on natural waters are still not recognised by many regulators and

health bodies. There are over 30 sites known and a suspected 90 more yet to be confirmed. The Trust is working with several local authorities to put together treatment plans that might be managed on a local level.

We continue to be working on projects regarding mine wastes across much of the UK (including Kent, Devon, Anglesey Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, and Fife) water from abandoned mines and the long-term care of tailings dam impoundments, both in the UK and globally. The Trust have advised on several projects taking place in other parts of the world. We have been involved in the establishment of two treatment schemes in the UK this year. The Trust was present at the Cornish Mining Conference in Falmouth this last year.

The Trust continues to extol the use of minewater from the abandoned minefields of the country as a resource. The value to society of heat and water being made more obvious at this time of global climate concern. There is a possible project in the Midlands that will involve us.

The Trust continues to work with communities to help to develop flood protection schemes wherever possible. We have advised several local authorities and householders on issues such as clean-up of contaminants after flooding has entered properties.

The Trust continues its support of the archaeological research being carried out in the Trent Valley around Newark. This has required us developing contacts with several other research institutions such as the British Museum. This work continues to allow us to discover the state of the river through time. River restoration schemes are being carried out by several organisations which have requested advice that has been supplied.

The Trust has continued to advise several out of country governments and organisations about water issues. Several African, Asian, and European countries have received our advice over the past year. These consultations are carried out to foster international co-operation, best practise, and good will. No costs have been incurred by the Trust carrying out these services.

The Trust continues to be available to communities and individuals who seek advice or support regarding any issue regarding pollution of rivers and streams across the UK. This is a unique feature of the Trust and one aspect of our work that has never changed.

Harvey Wood.  
Director

1<sup>st</sup> December 2022

## **Report of the Trustees; Including Public Benefit.**

The Trustees of Clean Rivers Trust present their report of the Charity and its activities to outline their due diligence with regard to the demonstration of Public Benefit, and to show that the works that have been undertaken are in line with the registered aims and objectives of the Trust. The Clean Rivers Trust was founded as an organisation in 1990 and is governed by a Deed of Trust registered with the Charity Commission in 1994.

The objects of the Trust being ‘to advance the education of the public by research and dissemination of any findings regarding the care of inland and estuarine waters and to benefit the environment of rivers and inland waters by the research and the implementation of such research findings.

The Trust has developed its governance by agreeing a set of policies which are published. A continuous audit of the Trustees abilities demonstrates it to be satisfactory and all areas of governance are represented by the composition of the body. The accounting is conducted according to directions of and as outlined by the Charity Commission. The Trustees are aware of the need for a wide base of expertise and talent within the management structure of the organisation and function as Trustees of the Trust. Those who are at present Trustees all have expertise in areas that are of considerable worth to Clean Rivers Trust and do not just function as a body for meetings.

The Trustees undertake to ensure that the organisation is compliant of its Trust Deed and its stated aims and objectives. The Trust does not lobby on behalf of any political, commercial, or ideological entity and has never done so.

The Directors Report outlines the activities the Trust has been involved with over the last year. The Trustees can report the Trust continues to receive support from a wide range of experts and is able to count on specialists from most water, energy, mineral/mining, and conservation disciplines.

The finances of the Trust have been adequate over this last year which has allowed further research activity which has been reported on in the Directors Report. The natural pragmatism of the Trustees is to protect the moneys earned by the Trust to ensure the long-term research plans. The Trust has not spent any funds outside the UK in the last year.

December 2022

## Accounts.

The following section contain the receipts and payments accounts of Clean Rivers Trust, as set out by the Charity Commission in their letter of September 2015.

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>		
Unrestricted Grants and Donations	44,000	21,460
Restricted Grants and Donations	32,200	10,000
Fees	0	6,000
<b>Gross income</b>	<b>76,200</b>	<b>37,460</b>
Sales of assets/investments	0	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>76,200</b>	<b>37,460</b>

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Payments</b>		
Rent/utilities/insurance	10,950	9,790
Travel	4,790	1,304
Books/Library	2,782	1,960
Research (Totals £53,689)		£26,623)
• Laboratory costs	4,260	1,900
• Field Work	8,850	9,253
• Education	4,547	5,582
• Materials	7,080	1,109
• Health and Safety	2,239	1,250
• Equipment	1,842	1,029
• Research Assistance	24,871	6,500
Accounting/bookkeeping	405	250
Memberships	780	680
Bank Charges	112	87
Web/internet site	550	400
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>74,058</b>	<b>41,094</b>
Purchases of assets/investments	0	0
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>74,058</b>	<b>41,094</b>

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>Cash funds at end of year</b>		
In bank at 1 <sup>st</sup> December	28,726	26,584
Restricted Funds	0	6,000
Unrestricted Funds	28,726	20,584
<b>Total available for Trust Purposes.</b>	<b>28,726</b>	<b>26,584</b>
Research expenses due to the Trust under agreement with funder	0	0
Research fees due to Trust	0	0
Outstanding moneys owed by Trust	0	0

**Notes:**

- Most receipts of funding were unrestricted. Those funds that were restricted being for works in Derbyshire, and Devon which were duly ring-fenced.
- There are no investment assets, nor were any investments sold or purchased during this accounting year.
- No funds were used for projects outside the UK.
- Research costs included the operation of the trust's own laboratory, commercial laboratory analysis of water and other samples, health and safety arrangements, procurement of samples, growing media, tools, and other related items.
- The library is valued (estimate 2021) for replacement at £174,000. The valuation of books being a difficult subject today due to the availability of many rare texts on-line.

## **Independent Examiners Report.**

To the Trustees of Clean Rivers Trust (Charity Registration Number 1037414).

This is my third year I have examined the accounts of Clean Rivers Trust.

The accounts and report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021; set out on pages 6 – 10 of the Annual Report and Accounts of Clean Rivers Trust.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Charities Act and more recent guidance and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under relevant sections of the Charities Acts 2011 and 2016 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and its amendments up to and including those published in October 2018,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under the Charities Act, and the Statement of Recommended Practice).
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examination**

My examination was conducted in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently

no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement** The Examination has been carried out in line with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice.

In connection with my examination, **no** matter has come to my attention;

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; andto prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Howard Dodds

Examiner.

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

# **Appendices.**

## **I**

### **Funders and Acknowledgements.**

The following persons and organisations have contributed to the Trust to enable its work to develop. Each donor is thanked by letter or e mail, whichever is the preferred method of communication. Some organisations who contributed to Clean Rivers Trust over the last financial year wished to remain anonymous, others include: The Anson Trust, Swire Charitable Trusts, Henry C Hoare Charitable Trust, Northwick Trust, Wilmcote Chariturst, Sir John and Lady Amory Charitable Trust, William A Cadbury Charitable Trust, Mary Kinross Charitable Trust, Tay Charitable Trust, Open Gate Trust, Stella Symonds Charitable Trust, Clutterbuck Trust, Chapman Charitable Trust, Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust, Irving Memorial Trust, Edward and Dorothy Cadbury Trust, Southall Trust, Trefoil Trust, 29<sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust, R G Hill Charitable Trust, and Sabena Sutherland Charitable Trust,

The Trust acknowledges the support in time and practical assistance to the following people and organisations; Noreen Shears, Eur Ing Victor A Johnson, Nathan Coop, Sophie Annable, the Coal Authority, Shaun Walters, Longcliffe Quarry Ltd., Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Natural England, and many others who have given their expertise.

## **II**

### **Library.**

The library has grown over the years to be of importance to both the organisation and outside researchers alike. It holds reports dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and its comprehensive river related documents from the 1990s produced by the National Rivers Authority and Environment Agency are the most complete available.

The Trust continues to welcome researchers to the library by appointment.



**CLEAN RIVERS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1037414

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# Accounts

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Clean  
Rivers  
Trust

Registered Charity No: 1037414

Annual Report  
And  
Accounts

30<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
(1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021)

73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX

## **Information.**

This report is the legal annual report and accounts of Clean Rivers Trust, as lodged with, and submitted to the Charity Commission. Registered Charity Number 1037414. The Charity is based at 73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX UK. Phone 0121 440 8046.

This document is produced and published using environmentally sustainable materials.

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## **Legal and Administrative Information.**

**Trustees;** Rodney Gilmour, Peter Jones OBE, Laura Bishop, Lawrence van Kampen-Brooks, Paul Southby, Dr Sally Little and Dr Matt Johnson.

**Director:** Professor Harvey Wood Dip AD, MA, PhD, FRSA, FRGS, FGS, FLS, LSDC [hwoop@aol.com](mailto:hwoop@aol.com) . 07885 422428

**Trust Address:** 73 Sir Harrys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UX  
**Phone:** 0121 440 8046

**Web Site:** [www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk](http://www.cleanriverstrust.co.uk)

## **Bankers.**

Barclays Bank plc, Market Place, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Santander, Market Place, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

## **Solicitors.**

BrowneJacobson LLP, Mowbray House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1BJ

## **Meetings.**

The Trustees convened four times in the financial period 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Web Consultant: Noreen Shears.

## **Directors Report.**

The last year has been challenging due to the pandemic: arranging meetings on sites, field work and funding for projects have all been affected. Meetings have nearly always been by online methods which have become the norm but are far from ideal. Visits to sites have been made but if accompanied by others social distancing has been the norm. For all the problems that Covid has brought this has still been a busy year with research carrying on alongside continuing field work, advising and giving support to individuals, groups and organisations across the country.

We have continued to be extremely busy throughout the year at the Tar Pits at Cinderhill in Derbyshire. The remediation aspect of our trial was reported on by the University of Nottingham, whose independent analysis of our work on the site continues to show remarkable remediation progress. The breakdown of carcinogens by natural means being amongst the most notable, alongside the removal of acidity and threats to the local watercourses in the area. We have also now seen new life coming to the site, species such as slugs and snails are found across the site. These previously would have dissolved on entering the area.

Papers are at present being prepared for publication in journals to both spread the word and engage the wider academic community to the possibilities. The Trust received an award for the research from the Brownfield Briefing Magazine, a journal of contamination and development of polluted sites in December, which was a pleasing accolade for the work at Cinderhill.

The Trust has been asked to look at one acid tar pit in the Northwest of England by a local authority. It is a vast expanse of flooded tar pit that will require a very special effort on the part of the Trust to achieve clean up, but it is an important site that drains into a large river system.

Our work at Cinderhill has further led to the Trust being asked for advice by local communities in South Wales, Hereford, Cheshire, Lancashire, Northumberland, and Lincolnshire regarding some highly noxious pollutions, including leachate discharges from landfill sites closed in the 1950s through to the 1970s, many of which were hidden by other pollutions such as those from mining, quarrying and abandoned minewater which have now been treated in those areas.

The work we are undertaking at Cinderhill, led to us being commissioned by Denby Pottery to stabilise and remediate their historic glaze pit. This was planned for early spring 2021 but has been delayed by the pottery's owners till 2022 or 2023.

We continue to be working on projects regarding mine waste across much of the UK (including in Kent, Devon, Anglesey Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, and Fife) water from abandoned mines and the long-term care of tailings dam impoundments, both in the UK and globally. The Trust have advised on several projects taking place in other parts of

the world. We have been involved in the establishment of three treatment schemes in the UK this year.

We continue to push for the use of minewater from the abandoned minefields of the country as a resource. The value to society of heat and water being made more obvious at this time of global climate concern.

The Trust continues to work with communities to help to develop flood protection schemes wherever possible. We have given advice to several parish councils and other local authorities.

The Trust continues in support of the archaeological research being carried out in the Trent Valley around Newark. We have also supported, and guided river restoration schemes being carried out by several River Trusts, Wildlife Trusts, and other conservation bodies across the UK.

The Trust has advised several out of country governments and organisations about water issues in several African, Asian and European countries over the past year. These consultations are carried out to foster international co-operation, best practise, and good will. No costs have been incurred by the Trust.

Much of our work aiding the Environment Agency on arsenic and other pollutants in Derbyshire is being held back due to the pandemic.

It is with regret that the Trust notes the death of Patricia Wood, one of the original founders of the organisation in 1990 when it was known as Clean Rivers Campaign and carried on her involvement into the new millennium.

Harvey Wood.  
Director

1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

## **Report of the Trustees; Including Public Benefit.**

The Trustees of Clean Rivers Trust present their report of the Charity and its activities to outline their due diligence with regard to the demonstration of Public Benefit, and to show that the works that have been undertaken are in line with the registered aims and objectives of the Trust. The Clean Rivers Trust was founded as an organisation in 1990 and is governed by a Deed of Trust registered with the Charity Commission in 1994.

The objects of the Trust being ‘to advance the education of the public by research and dissemination of any findings regarding the care of inland and estuarine waters and to benefit the environment of rivers and inland waters by the research and the implementation of such research findings.

The Trust has developed its governance by agreeing a set of policies which are published. A continuous audit of the Trustees abilities demonstrates it to be satisfactory and all areas of governance are represented by the composition of the body. The accounting is carried out according to directions of and as outlined by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees are aware of the need for a wide base of expertise and talent within the management structure of the organisation and act as Trustees of the Trust. Those who are at present Trustees all have expertise in areas that are of considerable worth to the organisation and do not just function as a body for meetings.

The Trustees undertake to ensure that the organisation is compliant of its Trust Deed and its stated aims and objectives. The Trust does not lobby on behalf of any political, commercial, or ideological entity and has never done so. The Trustees ensure that no staff or volunteer does so either in the name of the Trust. The Trust does not endorse and has never done so any product or action and in its reports to industry or other organisations: its recommendations have always been advisory and as such the Trust has project managed other; usually larger, commercial organisations to carry out project implementation.

The Directors Report outlines the activities the Trust has been involved with over the last year.

The Trustees can report the Trust continues to receive support from a wide range of experts and is able to count on specialists from most water, energy, mineral/mining and conservation disciplines.

The finances of the Trust have been adequate over this last year. This has allowed further research activity which has been reported on in the Directors Report. The natural pragmatism of the Trustees is to protect the moneys earned by the Trust to ensure the long-term research plans. The Trust has not spent any funds outside the UK in the last year.

December 2021.

## Accounts.

The following section contain the receipts and payments accounts of Clean Rivers Trust, as set out by the Charity Commission in their letter of September 2015.

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>		
Unrestricted Grants and Donations	21,460	30,500
Restricted Grants and Donations	10,000	22,500
Fees	6,000	16,250
<b>Gross income</b>	<b>37,460</b>	<b>69,250</b>
Sales of assets/investments	0	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>37,460</b>	<b>69,250</b>

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Payments</b>		
Rent/utilities/insurance	9,790	14,950
Travel	1,304	1,555
Books/Library	1,960	4,280
Research (Total £26,623)		£41,560)
• Laboratory costs	1,900	2,500
• Field Work	9,253	10,570
• Education	5,582	8,250
• Materials	1,109	6,230
• Health and Safety	1,250	1,150
• Equipment	1,029	2,985
• Research Assistance	6,500	9,875
Accounting/bookkeeping	250	250
Memberships	680	530
Bank Charges	87	119
Web/internet site	400	400
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>41,094</b>	<b>63,645</b>
Purchases of assets/investments	0	0
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>41,094</b>	<b>63,645</b>

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Cash funds at end of year</b>		
In bank at 1 <sup>st</sup> December	26,584	30,218
Restricted Funds	6,000	14,000
Unrestricted Funds	20,584	16,218
<b>Total available for Trust Purposes.</b>	<b>26,584</b>	<b>30,218</b>
Research expenses due to the Trust under agreement with funder	0	0
Research fees due to Trust	0	0
Outstanding moneys owed by Trust	0	0

## Notes:

- Most receipts of funding were unrestricted. Those funds that were restricted being for works in Derbyshire, and Devon were duly ring-fenced.
- There are no investment assets, nor were any investments sold or purchased during this accounting year.
- No funds were used for projects outside the UK.
- Research costs included the operation of the trust's own laboratory, commercial laboratory analysis of water and other samples, health and safety arrangements, procurement of samples, growing media, tools, and other related items.
- The library is valued (estimate 2021) for replacement at £174,000. The valuation of books being a difficult subject today due to the availability of many rare texts on-line.

## Independent Examiners Report.

To the Trustees of Clean Rivers Trust (Charity Registration Number 1037414).

This is my third year I have examined the accounts of Clean Rivers Trust.

The accounts and report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021; set out on pages 6 – 10 of the Annual Report and Accounts of Clean Rivers Trust.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner** The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Charities Act and more recent guidance and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under relevant sections of the Charities Acts 2011 and 2016 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and its amendments up to and including those published in October 2018,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under the Charities Act, and the Statement of Recommended Practice).
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's** My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently

no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's  
statement**

The Examination has been carried out in line with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice.

In connection with my examination, **no** matter has come to my attention;

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Howard Dodds  
Examiner.

4<sup>th</sup> December 2021

# **Appendices.**

## **I**

### **Funders and Acknowledgements.**

The following persons and organisations have contributed to the Trust to enable its work to develop. Each has been written to and the Trust's thanks expressed. Some organisations who contributed to Clean Rivers Trust over the last financial year wished to remain anonymous, others include: the Aylesford Trust, Langdale Trust, GJW Turner Trust, Russell Trust, Fort Foundation, Hoare Trust, Woodroffe Benton Foundation, Oakdale Trust, Charlotte Marshall Charitable Trust, Tory Family Foundation, David Uri Memorial Trust, Marsh Christian Trust, Blakemore Foundation, Percy Lea Charitable Trust, Harbinson Charitable Trust, Michael Marks Charitable Trust and William Dean Countryside and Educational Trust.

The Trust acknowledges the support in time and practical assistance to the following people and organisations; Noreen Shears, Eur Ing Victor A Johnson, Nathan Coop, Sophie Annable, the Coal Authority, Shaun Walters, Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Natural England, and many others who have given their expertise.

## **II**

### **Statement of Ongoing Social and Environmental Care.**

The Trust continues to be committed to lessen its negative environmental impacts and continues doing all it can to encourage others to do likewise. It has a non-discriminatory attitude to the sexuality and religion of all who it works with.

The Trust complies with all statutory requirements and has published its policies on care and protection of children, venerable adults, anti-slavery, and many other issues.

## **III**

### **Library.**

The library has grown over the years to be of importance to both the organisation and outside researchers alike. It holds reports dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and its comprehensive river related documents from the 1990s produced by the National Rivers Authority and Environment Agency are the most complete in the UK.