

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1070672

Details

Other names	RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03498691
Registered	1998-07-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	c/o Heidelberg Materials Ribblesdale Works Clitheroe Lancashire BB7 4QF
Phone	01200 444452
Email	info@ribbletrust.com
Website	www.ribbletrust.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (1) To conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments, tributaries, banksides, margins and land of and within, but not limited to, the catchments comprising the rivers Ribble, Hodder, Calder, Darwen and Douglas, including adjacent estuarine and coastal areas, for the advancement of environmental protection or improvement particularly within the said geographic area for the benefit of the public. (2) To advance the education of the public, or any association, institution, voluntary organisation, company, local or area authority, administrative or governmental agency or public body or representative body or those involved in agriculture, aquaculture horticulture and land management in: - (a) The rivers, river corridors and river catchments, including their fauna, flora, biodiversity, economic or social activity, and river catchment management. (b) The need for, and benefits of, conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of aquatic environments.

Activities: Conservation etc of watercourses in the Ribble Catchment

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Lancashire
- North Yorkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£3,814,280	£2,328,845	£2,682,439	27
2024-01-31	£1,954,217	£1,876,897	£1,197,004	24
2023-01-31	£2,173,146	£2,247,452	£1,119,684	26
2022-01-31	£2,064,514	£2,049,315	£1,193,990	25
2021-01-31	£1,973,555	£2,005,662	£1,178,791	23

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JEFFREY ALAN COWBURN	Chair	2014-02-13
ALAN THOMAS ROWNTREE		
COLIN HARVEY MARCHBANK		
DOMINIC WILLIAM BRADLEY		
Janet Elizabeth Alcock		2020-09-21
Jayne Natalie Hacking		2026-02-16
Jeremy John Bruce Rawkins		2019-11-12
John Francis Bleasdale		2015-09-16
Judith Lynn Yates		2020-06-22
Michael John Ellacott		2015-09-16
Tasmin Rebecca Lofthouse		2026-02-10

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1070672

Accounts

Company Registration No. 03498691 (England and Wales)

Charity Registration No.1070672

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP
Chartered Accountants
New Century House
Greenbank Technology Park
Challenge Way
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 5QB

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

President	J P Lord	
Trustees	J A Cowburn J E Alcock J F Bleasdale D W Bradley M J Ellacot C H Marchbank J J B Rawkins A T Rowntree J L Yates	
Secretary and treasurer	A T Rowntree	
Key Management Personnel	J Spees C Jaggs H Hamilton Thorpe A Walmsley K Oddie E Brown	Chief Executive Officer Head of Core Services Head of People And Learning Head of River Conservation Head of Land Management Head of Data, Evidence and GIS
Charity number	1070672	
Company number	03498691	
Registered office	C/O Heidelberg Materials Ribblesdale Works Clitheroe Lancashire BB7 4QF	
Auditor	PM+M Solutions for Business LLP New Century House Greenbank Technology Park Challenge Way Blackburn Lancashire BB1 5QB	
Bankers	Handelsbanken Greenbank Technology Park Challenge Way Blackburn Lancashire BB1 5QB	

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The aim of the Trust (set out in the Articles of Association of the Trust) is to secure the Conservation, Protection, Rehabilitation and improvement of rivers, streams, water courses, water impoundments, banksides, and tributaries, catchment areas and estuaries in particular of the Rivers Ribble, Calder, Hodder, Darwen and Douglas for the benefit of the public.

The Trust also seeks to advance the education of the public in these rivers and the need for conservation of them.

The Trust seeks to achieve these aims by using a holistic strategy that uses the process, of "Identify – Improve – Sustain" to address all issues affecting the catchment. In achieving this strategy the Trust has set the following objectives:

1. Undertake and support annual monitoring, investigation and research activities to identify and quantify issues and impacts that affect the Ribble Catchment.
2. Collate evidence from objective 1 to prioritise and deliver an annual restoration and improvement programme of activities across the catchment.
3. Wherever possible to influence and encourage partners delivering activities within the catchment to undertake actions in partnership to deliver improvements to the River Ribble and its tributaries.
4. To continuously engage and educate all communities, stakeholders and interest groups to address wider issues and ensure improvements are maximised and sustained.

Delivery of Objectives:

In delivery of the objectives Ribble Rivers Trust employs a team of dedicated, experienced and highly qualified staff. The skills and experience of the Trust reflect the holistic strategy, and the Trust is committed to continually developing the employees through external and internal training, and providing opportunities to work on different projects to provide broader involvement in the Trust's activities.

Volunteers:

The Trust relies upon the support of volunteers for a range of activities, including, tree planting, fencing, river clean ups, surveying and monitoring, education activities and administration and technical support (including website maintenance, and design work). The volunteers represent a significant component of the activity of the Trust, the value of the volunteer contribution ranges from £50 per day to £350 per day. During the year the Trust benefited from 3,666.5 hours put in by over 450 volunteers with a value calculated at £46,110.

Public benefit:

The outcomes of the Trust's strategy and activities are vital to the continued conservation of the Ribble Catchment. The Trust provides a range of benefits to the public, commonly referred to as "Ecosystem Services", these include benefits such as the provision of high quality recreation areas and assets, reduction in flood risk, reductions in the risk of droughts, improvements to water quality (bringing benefit to biodiversity and bathing waters), and sustainable food production. The methodology employed in delivery of the objectives is to work with the communities and stakeholders who use and enjoy the catchment. This involves provision of opportunities to be directly involved, and also for the Trust to provide information on its work to its partners, funders and the public through reports, presentations, attendance at public events, newsletters, our website, and social media. Such partnership working helps to ensure that the Trust is delivering its core objectives effectively in the public interest, but also ensures and maximises wider direct and indirect socio-economic public benefits.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities, which is an annual process.

Achievements and performance, including Plans for Future Periods

During the year to January 31st, 2025, the Trust's activity focused around:

- Continuing to deliver a catchment scale project in the Loud Catchment with United Utilities to reduce flood risk through Natural Flood Risk Management, and to reduce Phosphate sources from agriculture.
- Ongoing partnership work with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust developing the Farm Group in the Upper Ribble the "Ribblesdale Farm Group" looking at Habitat creation and restoration to support reduced Diffuse Pollution and improved Natural Flood Risk Management.
- Delivery of our Ribble Revival: Room for River programme supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and DEFRA's Species Survival Fund. Including; Fish Passage on Bezza Brook, as well as Wetland creation near Holden, Long Preston and Hellifield, engagement and volunteering activities, monitoring of impact, and finalising details for delivery of remaining projects in 2025. The projects include de-culverting, re-meandering, fish passage, leaky dams, and more wetlands across the catchment.
- Continuation of the Catchment System Thinking Monitoring Cooperative (CaSTCo) project, seeking to increase the use of citizen science to inform action and plans by a range of stakeholders through River Blitz's resulting in action to improve rivers.
- Working with the Turning Tides partnership and communities to develop and deliver activities that will support better coast Bathing Waters. This has focused on opportunities in Main Drain, Liggard, Eaves and Savick Brooks.
- Delivery of the Lancashire Woodland Connect campaign, which continues our riparian and catchment woodland programme, seeking to deliver a decade of woodland creation, with 63,000 Trees planted and creation of 45 hectares of woodland. Currently the campaign is working to deliver 48 Hectares of woodland in the 25/26 planting season.
- Taking information, evidence and priorities from the Darwen Evidence and Engagement Project and developing this into projects for delivery.
- Commencement of three EA NFM Programme supported projects in Clitheroe, Darwen and Wrea Green. This focused on installing before monitoring and securing consents and permissions, as well as funding for delivery of interventions in 2025.
- Continuation of Trawden Natural Flood Risk Management projects, through the growing Farm Group, with support and funding from the EA.
- Ongoing activity within the Mainstreaming Nature Based Solutions programme, a national OFWAT innovation fund supported project, led by United Utilities. This project seeks to identify and remove barriers that will enable nature-based solution to become business as usual.
- Development and delivery of education activities across the catchment, including involving school children in delivery of improvement works, and learning to fish.
- Ongoing monitoring of fish, invertebrates, and water chemistry and other species that indicate the health of the Ribble Catchment.
- Continuing our work to prioritise our activities, using spatial data and evidence through Geographical Information Systems and models, sharing the results, and developing tools that are of national significance, such as the Turning Tides decision making tool.
- Collaborating with partners to monitoring, investigate and deliver actions to improve the status of the Bathing Water at Edisford which was designated in 2024.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Ribble Revival

The Trust has continued to use "Ribble Revival" as the umbrella description of our work campaigns. The campaigns come together to enable the revival of the Ribble. Each project developed, secured, and delivered fall within one of these:

- Community Catchments
- Room for Rivers
- Farming Communities
- Monitoring for Change

Community Catchments:

Community Catchments as a campaign secured project funding from United Utilities in 2024, that will see three years of delivery across the Ribble Catchment, supporting development of 4 community catchment initiatives. It is intended that this will see the establishment of 4 Community led Action Plans. This includes in Clitheroe, Darwen and Wrea Green aligned to the EA NFM Programme projects, but is also seeking to develop them in Trawden, Ribchester, Sabden, Billington and Waddington. In addition to this, funding was provided by United Utilities to deliver 48 River Clean ups, and 96 INNS control days over 3 years.

Ribble Life

The Ribble Life "Catchment Based Approach" partnership (a Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs instigated initiative) continued to meet throughout the year, a number of key focuses were identified, including the creation of a Collaborative Monitoring Plan, to better share, align and utilise all of the data, evidence and information collected by partners. This would identify gaps in monitoring that needed to be addressed, but more importantly provide a better basis for influencing strategies, plans and decision making. This process would directly support the revision of the Ribble Life Catchment Action Plan, which will identify key collaborations an opportunity to work together to improve the catchment. This was complemented through a review of different data and evidence tools to aid in prioritisation of works and works locations that was undertaken during the year.

The partnership has also provided, or functioned as, a steering group for a number of RRT projects, and been a key source of technical input for project development and delivery.

Future Plans

Continue to create a Collaborative Monitoring Plan and simultaneously review the Catchment Action Plan and prepare an update version for publication. Deliver the first collaboration opportunity mapping workshop with the full partnership.

Education

The education activities of "River in the Classroom" offer a wide range of activities for schools that can be done individually or in combination. This is seen as a fundamental area of activity for the trust, particularly expanding our coverage and the number of schools and pupils involved.

Future Plans

Continuation of the education programme, with increased emphasis on securing longer term sustainability to ensure that the successes delivered thus far can continue and be expanded.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Darwen engagement and environmental priorities (DEEP)

The Trust, in partnership with the Environment Agency, undertook community engagement activities to develop priorities for river restoration in the Darwen catchment. The aim is to create a Darwen urban river restoration project, which has been developed through direct input of the community, leading to wider socio-economic benefits.

Future Plans

To continue to engage and collaborate with communities to develop projects, which can be grouped into a programme of delivery to support river restoration.

Darwen Community Catchments

RRT has developed a prioritised evidenced based NFM catchment action plan. Using a range of widely available and bespoke GIS tools to identify both intervention types and the locations they are needed, and most beneficial. This has focused on Darwen as currently there are no NFM measures in place, but an increased priority for NFM to benefit Darwen, owing to lack of alternative "traditional" measures, to address future forecasted increased likelihood of flood events. The interventions focus on attenuating and slowing the flow in the headwaters/upper catchment to reduce and slow the amount reaching the Urbanised centre of Darwen which is across the near entirety of catchment's valley bottom. They include Woodland Management (Riparian, and Cross Slope), Run-Off Management specifically Headwater drainage management (vegetation management and grip and gully blocking), River Management (leaky barriers) and Run-off Pathway management (swales and ponds). This will be delivered in two locations above the town and within 2km, Darwen Moor, and a public open space adjacent to Blacksnap Playing Fields. The Trust also drew on input from the DEEP project and is keen to establish a community group to aid in monitoring and delivery of the works and instigate a wider and longer-term community led NFM programme. The Trust successfully installed all the required monitoring equipment and began gathering pre-works data on the proposed interventions. Additionally it finalised the delivery plan, including partnerships with Black with Darwen Council and Lancashire Wildlife Trust. Works are set to commence in Summer 2025

Future Plans

Delivery of the interventions across the Darwen catchment in summer and winter 2025. Continue monitoring of the project and seek to establish a community group to provide ongoing monitoring support.

Clitheroe Community Catchment

Previously we have delivered environmental and NFM work in and around Clitheroe. This has focused on land management, with Peat Restoration and soil improvements delivered across the Mearley Brook catchment. However, little work has been undertaken to slow the flow within river channels, and working with three landowners, we have identified several locations where leaky barriers could be installed to slow the flow. With little traditional flood defence planned within Clitheroe, and increasing extreme events the importance of NFM has grown, and working with Downham estate, a private landowner and tenant, and Heidelberg Materials we have identified interventions that can be implemented. The interventions proposed are River and Flood Plain Management, specifically Leaky Barriers and floodplain wetland restoration. The Trust is keen to establish a community group to aid in monitoring and delivery of the works and instigate a wider and longer-term community led NFM programme. The Trust successfully installed all the required monitoring equipment and began gathering pre-works data on the proposed interventions. Delivery of interventions is set to commence in the Summer of 2025.

Future Plans

Delivery of the interventions across the Worston and Mearley Brook catchments in the summer 2025. Continue monitoring of the project and seek to establish a community group to provide ongoing monitoring support.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Wrea Green Community Catchment

Instigated by the community, and supported and enabled by the Trust securing funding through the EA National NFM programme, our project will deliver Run-off Management, specifically Run-off pathway management, by seeking to divert water, particularly surface water from streams that flow out of Ribby Hall, and from drainage on Brown's Lane into a new storage pond, designed to hold a minimum level of water for biodiversity benefit, but with capacity to store up to 5500m³ of storm water, which it will then release slowly. The Trust collaborated with the community, creating a working group, which supported in the successful installation the required monitoring equipment, and began gathering pre-works data on the proposed interventions. Delivery of interventions is set to commence in the Summer of 2025.

The interventions will work with existing ponds and water courses to produce a cluster of connected features providing NFM benefit. The project was developed through Ribble Life for Water (a Water Environment Grant funded project). The project will also improve water quality, whilst providing new habitat for priority species (eels).

Future Plans

Delivery of the interventions on Browns Lane and associated farm fields in the summer 2025. Continue monitoring of the project and seek to establish a community group to provide ongoing monitoring support.

Angling Passport Scheme

The Angling Passport Scheme continues to be a success with significant numbers of anglers using the Trust's fishing, particularly at Mitton. Improvements to the access at Mitton have been completed, with further improvements being planned in 2025.

Future Plans

The Angling Passport Scheme will continue to operate, and the Trust will seek to expand and increase the availability of fishing within the catchment.

Fylde Waters Outdoor Learning

Working with the Earnest Cook Trust, the Trust has a dedicated outdoor learning officer delivering education and engagement activities with the public in the Fylde area, linking their actions and what they can do to water, and the links between the freshwater environment and the estuarine and marine environment.

Future Plans

Continue to deliver this programme of activity and link to other initiatives being delivered in the Fylde area, such as Turning Tides and our proposed work on Main Drain and Liggard Brook.

Farming Communities:

Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture (DWPA)

As one of the most significant issues affecting our rivers and streams DWPA is a primary focus for the Trust, we continue to engage with farmers and provide advice, guidance and support to adopt actions that will reduce DWPA, whilst providing additional environmental benefits (including natural flood risk management, but importantly will support more sustainable farm businesses. This is delivered through our "Pinpoint" advisory framework, which identifies "opportunities" for farmers, and signposts to funding, support or guidance that will encourage uptake. Complimented through establishing "Farm Groups," which bring together farmers from a specific area to provide peer to peer knowledge sharing, group training, and engagement, as well as group support to identify opportunities and take actions individually.

Over the last 12 months we have begun to focus on key priority locations, developing and initiating projects to address DWPA.

- Loud and Chipping Phosphate and Natural Flood Risk Management
- Long Preston Floodplain Partnership (and Ribblesdale Farm Group)
- Ribble and Douglas Farm Advice project
- Better Rivers Better Northwest Farm Groups (Douglas, Hyndburn, and Blackburn)

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Future Plans

Using priority locations identified with information and evidence from the Collaborative Monitoring Plans and the CaSTCo project deliver farm advice to specific farms. Expand farm visits in East Lancashire and the Douglas, seeking to use a range of funding sources to support interventions (such as countryside Stewardship and the Environment Agency).

Trawden Natural Flood Risk Management

Continuation of previous work the Trust and EA have commenced creation of a Farm Group in the Trawden sub-catchment and undertaking farm visits, to identify interventions to deliver NFM across the Trawden catchment. Once opportunities are identified, and feasibility agreed, these will be costed including the payments to farmers to aid in exploring ways to create "investable" projects to draw in private sector funding.

Future Plans

To complete farm visits and secure agreement to deliver a range of actions to improve Trawden Brook, and reduce flood risk to Trawden, develop and "investment" plan to attract private funding to deliver the work, and to share learning from the project with other communities and organisations.

Room for Rivers:

Room for Rivers as a campaign secure project funding from United Utilities in 2024, that will see three years of delivery across the Ribble Catchment, supporting 2 de-culverting projects, 4 wetland creation projects 5 fish passage projects. In addition, funding was provided to support the improvements at Bezza Brook as part of the Species Survival Fund project, and to deliver Wetlands on Main Drain.

Opening Up the River Douglas (OUR Douglas)

The Trust completed a review of the fisheries strategy, identifying priority locations for further fish passage works. The Trust has continued to seek funding from a range of sources to deliver fish passage projects within the River Douglas.

Future Plans

Continue to seek funding for fish passage projects that will enable delivery of the Fisheries Strategy.

Long Preston Flood Plain Partnership

The Trust has identified and developed a number of potential projects to continue the work of the Partnership, which would see more areas of the Flood Plain reconnected, and re-meandering of Long Preston Beck, where it is straightened and "perched" above the flood plain.

Future Plans

To continue our work with the Long Preston Floodplain Partnership to secure funding for delivery and develop new projects.

Tawd Valley Wetlands

The wetland previously developed in 2023 were deliver in spring 2024. This involved close partnership working with the EA, West Lancashire Borough Council, the Friends of Tawd Valley Park and the community. The wetland has developed into a wildlife haven, delivering biodiversity and water quality benefits, and such is the success was the location of a visit from a DEFRA funding and policy team in 2024. One further wetland has been developed ready for delivery, and funding has been applied for.

Future Plans

Secure funding and deliver the second wetland. Continue to monitor and report on the progress of the existing wetland.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Lancashire Woodland Connect

The Trust's 10-year campaign to establish 500 Ha of woodland across Lancashire, with partners delivering in the areas outside of the Ribble Catchment, continue at pace. The campaign continued to see support from the Environment Agency, the Woodland Trust, United Utilities and the Forestry Commission as well as other partners. This has been supported by the establishment, and maturation of a Lancashire Woodland Partnership. The partnership was fundamental in the creation of the woodland objectives and priorities of the Lancashire Local Nature Strategy. During 2024/25 the Trust was successful in a first-round application to the Forest for the Nation competition and was one of only 4 applicants invited to the final submission phase. Unfortunately the Trust was unsuccessful, but developed a suite of relationships, tools and materials that will continue to provide benefit into the future.

The fourth full planting season saw the Trust deliver 48 Hectares of woodland in the 24/25 planting season. There is an ongoing two-year programme of woodland creation planned, which shows the growing momentum.

Future Plans

To continue the campaign and associated delivery of Lancashire Woodland Connect, continuing to develop and then deliver 49 Hectares of new woodland, containing 46,000 trees in the season 25/26. Continue to work with the Woodland Trust and the Community Forest Trusts to secure ongoing funding for woodland creation.

Jack's Key NFM

The EA approach RRT to work in partnership to further develop and deliver an outline NFM programme developed by the EA in response to flood risk requirements resulting from the decommissioning of the Jack's Key reservoir. NFM was seen as the only remaining option to reduce flood risk, as all other viable traditional defences had been delivered. The project identified and modelled potential interventions showing the range of benefits and costed the hypothetical interventions. The project is now moving into a delivery phase to implement interventions identified in the project plan to decrease flood risk and deliver wider environmental benefit.

Future Plans

To utilise budget made available by the EA in conjunction with other funding sources to deliver interventions identified.

Blackburn with Darwen NFM

Inspired by the Jack's Key project, and the ongoing relationship with Blackburn with Darwen council developed over a decade of activity across the Darwen catchment, the Trust has continued work on a feasibility study for the wider Darwen catchment to model benefits and identify & agree interventions with a view to securing funding to instigate a large catchment wide programme of NFM. The modelling completed has shown significant potential benefit from NFM interventions, the Trust has now moved to securing permissions for delivery ahead of seeking funding from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for implementation.

Future Plans

Finalise the Feasibility Study with Blackburn with Darwen Council and then seek delivery funding.

Species Survival: Room for Rivers

A programme of 12 projects was developed and funding secured from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and DEFRA through the Species Survival Fund. The first year of this 2-year project saw delivery of fish passage improvements on Bezza Brook, Wetland created at Jamie's Farm near Hellifield, as well as at Long Preston and Holden. A range of volunteering and engagement activities ran alongside these activities. Before Works monitoring was completed for each of these sites, as well as the sites to be delivered in 2025. The projects in 2025 include 2 fish passage projects, a river re-meander, 2 de-culverting projects, further wetland creation, and leaky dams at two locations. There was significant work in 2024 to prepare the 2025 projects for delivery.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

All of these projects seek to deliver a range of interventions across the catchment designed to help a number of key species, namely salmon, trout, eels, smelt and lamprey, but all of the other associated species, and beyond that will benefit from the proposed works, which include delivery of habitat creation and restoration/enhancement works, water quality improvement, and fish passage, resulting in of 7.63 ha of wetland and riparian habitat, and 37.71 km watercourse habitat connected.

The project will also continue to deliver significant community engagement and offer opportunities for volunteering in conservation activities and monitoring.

Future Plans

Complete delivery of the 12 projects and continue to monitor the impacts.

Mainstreaming Nature Based Solutions

This project is a national project, working across the water sector, seeking to mainstream Nature Based Solutions (NBS). NBS have the potential to provide multiple socio-economic and environmental benefits by tackling flooding, drought, and water quality issues at landscape scale. The Trust have been delivering NBS under various guises for over a decade. However, there are systemic barriers currently preventing wider adoption and the benefits of NBS from being fully maximised, such as: fragmented/siloed investment, lack of standardisation and regulatory restrictions. This transformational programme of work brings together multi-sectorial expertise and leadership to collaboratively create and test new solutions to remove these barriers through real life case studies and facilitate and enable transition of NBS into business-as-usual to deliver greater value for customers, society, environment. The Trust will contribute to this programme widely but will also act as a convenor for all rivers trusts in the Northwest, as well as to deliver a project which will demonstrate how we can mainstream NBS.

Future Plans

Develop the demonstrator or "test" project, which will draw on the works of the wider programme to address that barriers and see an increase in use of Nature Based Solutions.

Monitoring for Change

CaSTCo

The Trust continued to draw learnings from the previous year's River blitz's (which aid in identifying "what", and "where" problems are, with a view to taking positive actions to improve the sub-catchment) and were a resounding success, pinpoint locations for follow up work, but also engaging and enthusing communities (confirmed with results of evaluation surveys issued to those present on the day). This approach is enabling rapid assessment of sub-catchments, and multiple sub-catchments per year to generate a robust overall assessment of a much larger area. From the River blitz's the Trust has been able to produce a list of priority farms requiring support from the Trust's farm advisors. The Trust has also begun to analyse and prepare the data and evidence gathered to share with partners, to begin to influence the delivery of plans and strategies (such as the United Utilities Asset Management Plan 8).

Future Plans

Deliver 4 River blitz's a year from April to September in 2024, providing evidence to the Trusts wider delivery teams, and share with partners to influence their delivery. Continue to demonstrate to volunteers the impact that the results have achieved, through sharing follow up actions delivered. Seek funding to secure and continue Citizen Science as a core element of the Trust's work.

Turning Tides

Working with the Turning Tides partnership the Trust has completed a project to deliver a "decision making tool" which brought together a range of data and evidence that allow collaborative decision making, such as where to deliver positive interventions, and guide regulatory action. Unfortunately, the tool requires an upgrade due to a change in how DEFRA share their open-source data, which is intended to be completed in 2025. A feasibility study on Liggard Brook was completed with a number of prospective projects identified for delivery. Funding is required and is being sought.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Future Plans

To upgrade the decision-making tool into use and encourage wider use. We also will seek to secure funding and work with landowners to deliver improvements to Liggard Brook and continue supporting Citizen Scientists.

The Trust's delivery of its annual fisheries surveys continued with over 300 sites surveyed across the catchment. There was a "levelling" out of the results with some positives for Trout but overall similar results to the previous year.

In addition to electro fishing, a new strategy and programme of invertebrate sampling by the Trusts own in house freshwater ecologist at "sentinel sites" continued to complement the electro fishing data but also aid in better informing the use and approach of our citizen science.

Monitoring of specific projects was conducted to assess the outputs and given an indication of expected outcomes. As well as ongoing monitoring of Otters, INNS, Bats and Habitat.

The data collected continues to generate evidence to guide the Trust's work. Particularly highlighting the locations for further investigation, interventions, and the need for significantly more work to reverse the downward trend. We continued work to develop new ways to use and interpret our data. Specifically allowing rapid identification of target areas, and easier assessment of causes of poor results when combined with other data.

Other Projects

The Trust conducted a range of other smaller projects and activities, including:

- Yorkshire Ribble Rangers, establishing a community group to address, INNS and litter around Settle and Giggleswick,
- River Clean Ups across the Ribble Catchment
- INNS control and co-ordinating training and control by volunteers with the Ribble Fisheries Consultative Association and Angling Trust
- ongoing partnership work with Primrose Community Nature Trust
- Preston Urban Tree Project
- Hyndburn Riverside Regeneration project – developing a vision of the rivers in the centre of Accrington.
- Supporting the delivery of the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Working with Natural England on Nature Activities in Voluntary Community Faith and Social Enterprises

Wider Future Plans

In 2025 the Trust will complete and publish a business plan for 2025 – 2030, setting out plans for securing funds for ongoing delivery of our delivery activities, as well as plans to relocate our office premises, and develop a demonstration site for integrated catchment management.

We will also be seeking to develop our next suite of projects and programmes that will follow on from the Species Survival Fund supported activities in Room for Rivers. And continue to increase our delivery of NFM in priority communities and locations across the catchment.

Financial review

The financial statements show that for the year ended 31 January 2025 net incoming resources were £1,485,435. There were net incoming resources on Unrestricted Funds of £215,128 and net incoming resources of £1,270,307 on Restricted Funds. The balance of the unrestricted funds at 31 January 2025 was £693,869 and the balance of the restricted funds at that date was £1,988,570.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to establish Unrestricted Funds of a sufficient amount in order to be in a position to fund various individual projects, particularly bearing in mind that much of the grant assistance receivable is paid following either part or full completion of such projects. Reserves also provide a fund which is available to deal with unforeseen events such as the need to reduce staff numbers if grant assistance should reduce or a need for a change of premises from which the Trust operates.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Investment policy

The subsidiary company, Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited traded during the year, providing consultancy services. A profit of £82,228 was generated during the year.

Cash resources not immediately required are placed on deposit with the Trustee bankers.

Structure, governance and management

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity. It is enrolled with Entrust, the regulator of environmental bodies under the Landfill Tax regulations. It is also a member of the Rivers Trust and the Angling Trust. The Trust operates under the name "Ribble Rivers Trust".

Trustees are recruited by recommendation of existing Trustees and members. Induction and training is undertaken by existing trustees and staff.

The Trustees meet formally on a quarterly basis and liaise constantly between meetings amongst themselves and with the Trust's staff, particularly the Chief Executive Officer to whom day-to-day management of the Trust is delegated.

The Trustees review the major risks to which the Trust is exposed. Risk is assessed on an overall basis as well as on a project-by-project basis. The Trust maintains appropriate insurance cover including employer's liability, public liability, professional indemnity, and trustee liability. The cost of the trustee liability insurance for the year was £862.55.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

J A Cowburn (Chairman)

J E Alcock

J F Bleasdale

D W Bradley

M J Ellacot

J P Lord (Resigned 16 October 2024)

C H Marchbank

J J B Rawkins

A T Rowntree

D J Wilmot (Resigned 20 August 2025)

J L Yates

Remuneration policy

The Remuneration Committee agrees the pay and remuneration of key management personnel after considering the remuneration paid for similar posts.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Ribble Rivers Trust Limited 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).

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

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; 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.

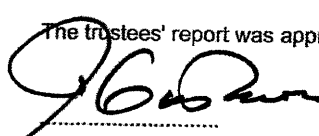
Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that PM+M Solutions for Business LLP be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

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


J A Cowburn
Chairman

Date: 15 Oct 2025

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ribble Rivers Trust Limited (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 January 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 January 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we have considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the Charity's remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
 - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and involving relevant specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: timing of recognition of commercial income, posting of unusual journals and complex transactions; and manipulating the Charity's performance profit measures and other key performance indicators to meet remuneration targets and externally communicated targets. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act, Charities Act, employment law, health and safety regulations, pensions legislation and tax legislation.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the identified risks of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

Ceri Dixon BSc (Hons) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of PM+M Solutions for Business LLP, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

New Century House

Greenbank Technology Park

Challenge Way

Blackburn

Lancashire

BB1 5QB

Date: 16/10/2025

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Charitable activities	3	383,049	3,400,967	3,784,016	116,148	1,828,983	1,945,131
Investments	4	30,264	-	30,264	9,086	-	9,086
Total income		413,313	3,400,967	3,814,280	125,234	1,828,983	1,954,217
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	198,185	2,130,660	2,328,845	75,480	1,801,417	1,876,897
Total expenditure		198,185	2,130,660	2,328,845	75,480	1,801,417	1,876,897
Net income and movement in funds		215,128	1,270,307	1,485,435	49,754	27,566	77,320
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 February 2024		478,741	718,263	1,197,004	428,987	690,697	1,119,684
Fund balances at 31 January 2025		693,869	1,988,570	2,682,439	478,741	718,263	1,197,004

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 JANUARY 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		29,346		16,251
Investments	12		100		100
			<u>29,446</u>		<u>16,351</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	13	903,473		469,973	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,917,065</u>		<u>764,477</u>	
		2,820,538		1,234,450	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(167,245)</u>		<u>(53,297)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>2,653,293</u>		<u>1,181,153</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>2,682,739</u>		<u>1,197,504</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15		<u>(300)</u>		<u>(500)</u>
Net assets			<u>2,682,439</u>		<u>1,197,004</u>
Net assets			<u><u>2,682,439</u></u>		<u><u>1,197,004</u></u>
The funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	17	1,988,570		718,263	
Unrestricted funds	18	<u>693,869</u>		<u>478,741</u>	
		<u>2,682,439</u>		<u>1,197,004</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on

15 October 2025


J A Cowburn
Chairman


A T Rowntree
Secretary and treasurer

Company registration number 03498691 (England and Wales)

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	23		1,143,058		261,699
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(20,734)		(17,200)	
Investment income received		30,264		9,086	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			9,530		(8,114)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			1,152,588		253,585
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			764,477		510,891
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,917,065		764,477

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Ribble Rivers Trust Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is C/O Heidelberg Materials, Ribblesdale Works, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 4QF.

1.1 Accounting convention

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" 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)". 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 has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

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

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.

1.4 Income

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

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

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.

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.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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:

Motor vehicles	25% Straight Line
----------------	-------------------

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

1.7 Fixed asset investments

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

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.9 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

1.10 Employee benefits

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.11 Retirement benefits

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

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 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Subscriptions and donations	53,919	24,323	78,242	51,671	28,275	79,946
Donations from subsidiary company	82,228	-	82,228	40,633	-	40,633
Gift in kind - office accommodation	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	-	20,000
Grants and contributions receivable	223,144	3,376,644	3,599,788	-	1,800,708	1,800,708
Angling passport tokens	3,758	-	3,758	3,844	-	3,844
	<u>383,049</u>	<u>3,400,967</u>	<u>3,784,016</u>	<u>116,148</u>	<u>1,828,983</u>	<u>1,945,131</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Bank interest	<u>30,264</u>	<u>9,086</u>

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	896,155	732,512
Depreciation and impairment	7,639	10,978
Gift in kind - office accommodation	20,000	20,000
Accountancy	8,734	10,464
Governance costs	10,740	10,500
Legal and professional fees	89,504	47,172
Training	59,779	30,928
Telephone, internet and website	27,517	14,013
Minor equipment	63,300	40,183
Insurance	14,120	14,848
Subscriptions	2,987	3,198
Office supplies	7,356	9,350
Bank charges	7,441	899
Advertising	4,471	4,257
Habitat improvement works	1,033,699	884,013
Newsletters	1,668	1,551
Motor and travel expenses	41,936	37,642
Other charitable expenditure	31,799	4,389
	<u>2,328,845</u>	<u>1,876,897</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	198,185	75,480
Restricted funds	<u>2,130,660</u>	<u>1,801,417</u>
	<u>2,328,845</u>	<u>1,876,897</u>

6 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Governance costs	<u>10,740</u>	<u>10,500</u>
Analysed between:		
Audit Fees	8,740	8,500
Accountancy	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	<u>10,740</u>	<u>10,500</u>

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

7	Net movement in funds	2025	2024
		£	£

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	8,740	8,500
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	7,639	10,978

8 Trustees

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

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Engaged in Projects	24	23
Administration	3	1
Total	27	24

Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	747,274	614,880
Social security costs	81,122	62,545
Other pension costs	67,759	55,087
	896,155	732,512

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
£80,000 - £89,999	1	1

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	376,383	363,298

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

9 Employees

(Continued)

The key management personnel of the parent charity comprise the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Core Services, Head of People and Learning, Head of Data, Evidence and GIS, Head of Land Management and Head of River Conservation.

10 Taxation

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

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles £
Cost	
At 1 February 2024	145,436
Additions	20,734
At 31 January 2025	166,170
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 February 2024	129,185
Depreciation charged in the year	7,639
At 31 January 2025	136,824
Carrying amount	
At 31 January 2025	29,346
At 31 January 2024	16,251

12 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 February 2024 & 31 January 2025	100
Carrying amount	
At 31 January 2025	100
At 31 January 2024	100

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

13 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	175,927	101,680
Other debtors	723,824	364,453
Prepayments and accrued income	3,722	3,840
	<u>903,473</u>	<u>469,973</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	152,865	42,551
Accruals and deferred income	14,380	10,746
	<u>167,245</u>	<u>53,297</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	300	500
	<u>300</u>	<u>500</u>

16 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	67,759	55,087
	<u>67,759</u>	<u>55,087</u>

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.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

17 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 February 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 January 2025 £
National Lottery Heritage Fund	25,930	-	(10,135)	-	15,795
Environment Agency	29,605	721,243	(575,077)	-	175,771
United Utilities	461,282	1,543,231	(661,481)	-	1,343,032
The Rivers Trust	23,691	-	(15,066)	-	8,625
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	(14,751)	18,740	(3,989)	-	-
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	(2,564)	277	-	-	(2,287)
Lancashire Woodland Connect	43,677	1,955	-	-	45,632
National Lottery Heritage Fund (Green Recovery Challenge Fund)	78,887	-	(25,703)	-	53,184
The Woodland Trust	89,753	259,700	(205,191)	-	144,262
Others	(17,247)	855,821	(634,018)	-	204,556
	<u>718,263</u>	<u>3,400,967</u>	<u>(2,130,660)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,988,570</u>

Previous year:	At 1 February 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 January 2024 £
National Lottery Heritage Fund	76,453	-	(50,523)	-	25,930
Environment Agency	120,824	382,779	(473,998)	-	29,605
United Utilities	189,121	504,025	(231,864)	-	461,282
The Rivers Trust	29,172	-	(5,481)	-	23,691
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	69,739	190,510	(275,000)	-	(14,751)
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	(4,238)	-	1,674	-	(2,564)
Lancashire Woodland Connect	42,461	1,292	(76)	-	43,677
National Lottery Heritage Fund (Green Recovery Challenge Fund)	43,299	359,763	(324,175)	-	78,887
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund - Green Recovery Challenge Fund)	134	28,260	(28,394)	-	-
The Woodland Trust	24,692	245,532	(180,471)	-	89,753
BAE	9,324	(2,324)	-	(7,000)	-
Others	89,716	119,146	(233,109)	7,000	(17,247)
	<u>690,697</u>	<u>1,828,983</u>	<u>(1,801,417)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>718,263</u>

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

17 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Within our projects that are delivered through provision of restricted funding by external Funders, we take a holistic approach to addressing the issues, as such the description below focuses on the significant activities delivered using the funds, however most funding will contribute to a range of activities.

Environment Agency – We receive support from both national and local programmes. The local programmes support delivery of fish and eel passage projects, woodland creation (through Tributrees), habitat improvements and farm advice across the catchment (Ribble and Douglas Farm Advice), natural flood risk management projects (including from the National NFM Programme, which is providing funds to three large scale projects) and engagement activities (Ribble Evidence and Engagement, North West Bathing Waters Project). Nationally there is support for hosting the Ribble Catchment Partnership – Ribble Life.

United Utilities – Delivering farm advice and improvements to farm infrastructure in the “Tidal Ribble” area of the Catchment to the west of Preston and support to the Wyre Rivers Trust in the “Tidal Wyre” area. Delivering farm advice and developing a capital works programme to improve water quality in the River Loud Catchment, and Wayoh. As well as the “Catchment System Thinking” grant for “Valuing Ribble’s Water Woods” seeking to determine the economic value of woodland for water quality improvements, and opportunities for green finance to support woodland creation. United Utilities have also provide funding through the Ofwat Innovation Funded projects Mainstreaming Nature Based Solutions, which seeks to increase the use of nature based projects to address water sector issues. As well as the Catchment Monitoring Cooperative seeking to increase Citizen Science to influence decision making. Significant funding was also provided for 5 projects, helping to boost biodiversity in the Ribble, specifically contributing towards habitat improvement works such as wetland creation and fish passage, community engagement, litter picks and invasive species control.

The Rivers Trust –a juvenile salmon monitoring programme, and in collaboration with United Utilities the better rivers better northwest programme of farm groups. We also received funding from the Rivers Trust for a DEFRA “Test and Trial”, which is a project seeking to obtain input from farmers into the development of the new agri-environment schemes.

Lancashire Woodland Connect – a 10 year woodland creation campaign started in January 2020, which has sought financial support from a range of organisations and the public. This includes support from Pendle, Hyndburn, Rossendale, West Lancashire, Lancaster, and Ribble Valley councils. It also received funding from a range of corporate donors and individuals.

National Lottery Heritage Fund / DEFRA Species Survival Fund – Supporting woodland, wetland, fish passage, de-culverting, in-channel habitat improvement, access, volunteering and engagement activities across the catchment. A separate grant from the Lottery’s Community Fund is centered on the Darwen catchment, aiming to improve water quality and habitat through increased community engagement and access to rivers.

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - supporting farm cooperation through facilitation as well as woodland creation and activities linked to the Facilitation Fund, Ribblesdale Farm Group, including GIS mapping work (Long Preston Data & Evidence)

The Woodland Trust – The Grow Back Greener funding, associated to the Northern Forest supporting woodland creation across the catchment.

Others - A range of schools contributing to our education campaign; Whalley Village Hall donation for woodland creation around Whalley; Skipton Properties a donation to woodland creation around Long Preston Deepes; Natural England for activities with community groups, local and county councils, individual landowners, the Forestry Commission, the Ernest Cook Trust for outdoor education, the Prospects Foundation, National Forest Company for project development, and donations from corporate entities and crowdfunders restricted to specific projects.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

18 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 February 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 January 2025 £
General funds	478,741	413,313	(198,185)	693,869
Previous year:	At 1 February 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 January 2024 £
General funds	428,987	125,234	(75,480)	478,741

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 January 2025:			
Tangible assets	29,339	7	29,346
Investments	100	-	100
Debtors	175,593	727,880	903,473
Cash	503,517	1,413,548	1,917,065
Current liabilities	(14,380)	(152,865)	(167,245)
Long term liabilities	(300)	-	(300)
	<u>693,869</u>	<u>1,988,570</u>	<u>2,682,439</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 January 2024:			
Tangible assets	12,905	3,346	16,251
Investments	100	-	100
Debtors	172,605	297,368	469,973
Cash	304,377	460,100	764,477
Current liabilities	(10,746)	(42,551)	(53,297)
Long term liabilities	(500)	-	(500)
	<u>478,741</u>	<u>718,263</u>	<u>1,197,004</u>

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

20 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the Charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	<u>3,082</u>	<u>4,173</u>

21 Related party transactions

During the year the following transactions took place between the Trust and Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited, a company registered in England and Wales which is a wholly owned subsidiary:

The Trust recharged costs of £71,613 (2024 - £72,950) to the subsidiary and the subsidiary company made a donation of £82,228 (2024 - £40,633) to the Trust.

At 31 January 2025 there was an amount of £175,927 (2024 - £101,680) included in debtors in respect of Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited.

During the year, unrestricted cash contributions received from Trustees and companies in which they have an interest amounted to £5,867 (2024 - £8,141).

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

The Charity had no material debt during the year.

23 Cash generated from operations	2025 £	2024 £
Surplus for the year	1,485,435	77,320
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(30,264)	(9,086)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	7,639	10,978
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(433,500)	207,988
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	113,748	(25,501)
Cash generated from operations	<u>1,143,058</u>	<u>261,699</u>

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1070672

Accounts

Company Registration No. 03498691 (England and Wales)

Charity Registration No.1070672

**RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED
(FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT
CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024**

**PM+M Solutions for Business LLP
Chartered Accountants
New Century House
Greenbank Technology Park
Challenge
Way
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 5QB**

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

J A Cowburn
J E Alcock
J F Bleasedale
D W Bradley
M J Ellacot
J P Lord
C H Marchbank
J J B Rawkins
A T Rowntree
D J Wilmot
J L Yates

Secretary and treasurer

A T Rowntree

Key Management Personnel

J Spees
C Jagg
H Hamilton Thorpe
A Walmsley
K Oddie
E Brown

Chief Executive Officer
Head of Core Services
Head of People And Learning
Head of River Conservation
Head of Land Management
Strategic Evidence and GIS
Manager

Charity number

1070672

Company number

03498691

Registered office

C/O Heidelberg Materials
Ribblesdale Works
Clitheroe
Lancashire
BB7 4QF

Auditor

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP
New Century House
Greenbank Technology Park
Challenge Way
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Lancashire
BB1 5QB

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Customer Service Centre
Drummond House
1 Redheughs Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9JN

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

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RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the 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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The aim of the Trust (set out in the Memorandum of Association of the Trust) is to secure the Conservation, Protection, Rehabilitation and improvement of rivers, streams, water courses, water impoundments, banksides, and tributaries, catchment areas and estuaries in particular of the Rivers Ribble, Calder and Hodder for the benefit of the public.

The Trust seeks to achieve this aim by using a holistic strategy that uses the process, of "Identify – Improve – Sustain" to address all issues affecting the catchment. In achieving this strategy the Trust has set the following objectives:

1. Undertake and support annual monitoring, investigation and research activities to identify and quantify issues and impacts that affect the Ribble Catchment.
2. Collate evidence from objective 1 to prioritise and deliver an annual restoration and improvement programme of activities across the catchment.
3. Wherever possible to influence and encourage partners delivering activities within the catchment to undertake actions in partnership to deliver improvements to the River Ribble and its tributaries.
4. To continuously engage and educate all communities, stakeholders and interest groups to address wider issues and ensure improvements are maximised and sustained.

Delivery of Objectives:

In delivery of the objectives Ribble Rivers Trust employs a team of dedicated, experienced and highly qualified staff. The skills and experience of the Trust reflect the holistic strategy, and the Trust is committed to continually developing the employees through external and internal training, and providing opportunities to work on different projects to provide broader involvement in the Trust's activities.

Volunteers:

The Trust relies upon the support of volunteers for a range of activities, including, tree planting, fencing, river clean ups, surveying and monitoring, education activities and administration and technical support (including website maintenance, and design work). The volunteers represent a significant component of the activity of the Trust, the value of the volunteer contribution ranges from £50 per day to £350 per day. During the year the Trust benefited from 3,265 hours put in by over 400 volunteers with a value calculated at £39,185.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Public benefit:

The outcomes of the Trust's strategy and activities are vital to the continued conservation of the Ribble Catchment. The Trust provides a range of benefits to the public, commonly referred to as "Ecosystem Services", these include benefits such as the provision of high quality recreation areas and assets, reduction in flood risk, reductions in the risk of droughts, improvements to water quality (bringing benefit to biodiversity and bathing waters), and sustainable food production. The methodology employed in delivery of the objectives is to work with the communities and stakeholders who use and enjoy the catchment. This involves provision of opportunities to be directly involved, and also for the Trust to provide information on its work to its partners, funders and the public through reports, presentations, attendance at public events, newsletters, our website, and social media. Such partnership working helps to ensure that the Trust is delivering its core objectives effectively in the public interest, but also ensures and maximises wider direct and indirect socio-economic public benefits.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities, which is an annual process.

Achievements and performance, including Plans for Future Periods

During the year to January 31st 2024 the Trust's activity focused around:

- Delivering the largest floodplain reconnection project in the Ribble Catchment to date, bringing water quality, habitat and natural flood risk management benefit.
- Continuation of the works to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture in priority areas through our previously Natural England Facilitation Fund Farm Group in the Loud Catchment near Chipping, which has commenced, delivering a catchment scale project with United Utilities. Additionally working in partnership with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust evolving the Farm Group in the Upper Ribble, the Ribblesdale Farm Group, looking at Habitat creation and restoration to support reduced Diffuse Pollution and improved Natural Flood Risk Management, through Deeper Connections.
- Installation of leaky dams at a demonstrator site on the River Skirden and undertaking monitoring to show its benefits.
- Re-meandering of Ged beck, increasing the amount of and quality of river habitat.
- Completion of the Deeper Connections project, improving the environment of the Long Preston Deeps project area.
- Continuation of the Catchment System Thinking Monitoring Cooperative (CaSTCo) project, seeking to increase the use of citizen science to inform action and plans by a range of stakeholders through River Blitz's resulting in action to improve rivers.
- Working with the Turning Tides partnership and communities to deliver activities that will support better coast Bathing Waters.
- Continuing the Lancashire Woodland Connect campaign, that builds on our riparian and catchment woodland programme, seeking to deliver a decade of woodland creation, with 30 Hectares of woodland scheduled for the winter 2023/24.
- Continuing the Darwen Evidence and Engagement Project, seeking to enable community input and action to improve the River Darwen.
- Continuing the Darwen and Trawden Natural Flood Risk Management projects.
- Development and delivery of education activities across the catchment, including involving school children in delivery of improvement works, and learning to fish.
- Completion of the Opening Up the River Douglas (OUR Douglas) programme involving delivery of 8 fish passage projects in the Douglas Catchment concluded with a weir removal in summer 2023, supported by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities with support from Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.
- Ongoing monitoring of fish, invertebrates, and water chemistry and other species that indicate the health of the Ribble Catchment.
- Continuing our work to prioritise our activities, using spatial data and evidence through Geographical Information Systems and models, sharing the results, and developing tools that are of national significance, such as the Turning Tides decision making tool.
- Submission of an application for designated Bathing Water status at Edisford Bridge to create a statutory driver for its protection and improvement for ongoing use by the public.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Ribble Revival

The Trust has developed a concept and a title of our planned and proposed projects and programmes over the coming 5 years. This seeks to be simple and given the time frame an indication of the pace at which we wish to work, this was decided to be "Ribble Revival". Each of our programmes and projects would sit under this banner, within 4 work areas, and each project would be linked to one principle work area, but integrated within each. These are:

- **Community Catchments**
- **Room for Rivers**
- **Farming Communities**
- **Monitoring for Change**

Existing projects fall within these, but as new projects are developed and funding applied for and secured, they will be specifically associated to communicate how our works link together to revive the Ribble. During 2023, we have had some of our first successes which are set out below.

Community Catchments:

Ribble Life

The Ribble Life "Catchment Based Approach" partnership (a Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs instigated initiative) continued to meet throughout the year, a number of key focuses were identified, including the creation of a Collaborative Monitoring Plan, to better share, align and utilise all of the data, evidence and information collected by partners. This would identify gaps in monitoring that needed to be filled, but more importantly provide a better basis for influencing strategies, plans and decision making. This process would directly support the revision of the Ribble Life Catchment Action Plan, which will identify key collaborations and opportunities to work together to improve the catchment. This was complemented through a review of different data and evidence tools to aid in prioritisation of works and works locations that were undertaken during the year.

The partnership has also provided, or acted as, a steering group for a number of RRT projects, and been a key source of technical input for project development and delivery.

Future Plans

Complete the Collaborative Monitoring Plans and Catchment Action Plan review.

Health and Environmental Action Lancashire (HEAL)

This project was finally completed in spring of 2023, with the last woodlands planted, and mini celebrations held with partners and volunteers. This project has sparked a number of successful activities and initiatives that have continued post project completion, such as walking groups and community tree nurseries. This is a key indicator of the success of the project.

Future Plans

Embed the lessons learned from HEAL into future projects, and seek to expand some of the activities more widely.

Education

The education activities of "River in the Classroom" offer a wide range of activities for schools that can be done individually or in combination. This is seen as a fundamental area of activity for the trust, particularly expanding our coverage and the number of schools and pupils involved.

Future Plans

Continuation of the education programme, with increased emphasis on securing longer term sustainability to ensure that the successes delivered thus far can continue and be expanded.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Darwen engagement and environmental priorities (DEEP)

The Trust, in partnership with the Environment Agency, is undertaking community engagement activities to develop priorities for river restoration in the Darwen catchment. The aim to create a Darwen urban river restoration project, that has been developed through direct input of the community, leading to wider socio economic benefits.

Future Plans

To continue to engage and work with communities to develop projects, that can be grouped into a programme of delivery to support river restoration.

Darwen Community Catchments

RRT has developed a prioritised evidenced based NFM catchment action plan. Using a range of widely available and bespoke GIS tools to identify both intervention types and the locations they are needed, and most beneficial. This has focused on Darwen as currently there are no NFM measures in place, but an increased priority for NFM to benefit Darwen, owing to lack of alternative "traditional" measures, to address future forecasted increased likelihood of flood events. The interventions focus on attenuating and slowing the flow in the headwaters/upper catchment to reduce and slow the amount reaching the Urbanised centre of Darwen which is across the near entirety of catchment's valley bottom. They include; Woodland Management (Riparian, and Cross Slope), Run-Off Management specifically Headwater drainage management (vegetation management and grip and gully blocking), River Management (leaky barriers) and Run-off Pathway management (swales and ponds). This will be delivered in two locations above the town and within 2km, Darwen Moor, and a public open space adjacent to Blacksnake Playing Fields. The Trust also drew on input from the DEEP project, and is keen to establish a community group to aid in monitoring and delivery of the works, and instigate a wider and longer term community led NFM programme. The Trust submitted an application to the EA National Natural Flood Risk Management Programme which has been successful and the project will now move into the first of two phases, to install monitoring equipment and develop a full business case, and then the second phase, subject to a positive decision on the full business case, delivery of the works.

Future Plans

Install the monitoring equipment and submit a full business case for the EA National NFM Programme project to secure funding for delivery of works in 2025.

Clitheroe Community Catchment

Previously we have delivered environmental and NFM work in and around Clitheroe. This has focused on land management, with Peat Restoration and soil improvements delivered across the Mearley Brook catchment. However, little work has been undertaken to slow the flow within river channels, and working with three land owners, we have identified several locations where leaky barriers could be installed to slow the flow. With little traditional flood defence planned within Clitheroe, and increasing extreme events the importance of NFM has grown, and working with Downham estate and Heidelberg Materials we have identified interventions that can be implemented. The interventions proposed are; River and Flood Plain Management, specifically Leaky Barriers and floodplain wetland restoration. The Trust is keen to establish a community group to aid in monitoring and delivery of the works, and instigate a wider and longer term community led NFM programme. The Trust has secured funding through the EA National NFM programme. The project has two phases, firstly to install monitoring equipment and develop a full business case, and subject to a positive decision on the full business case delivery of the works.

Future Plans

Install the monitoring equipment and submit a full business case for the EA National NFM Programme project to secure funding for delivery of works in 2025.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Farming Communities:

Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture (DWPA)

As one of the most significant issues affecting our rivers and streams DWPA is a primary focus for the Trust, we continue to engage with farmers and provide advice, guidance and support to adopt actions that will reduce DWPA, whilst providing additional environmental benefits (including natural flood risk management, but importantly will support more sustainable farm businesses. This is delivered through our "Pinpoint" advisory framework, which identifies "opportunities" for farmers, and signposts to funding, support or guidance that will encourage uptake. Complimented through establishing "Farm Groups", which bring together farmers from a specific area to provide peer to peer knowledge sharing, group training and engagement, as well as, group support to identify opportunities and take actions individually.

Over the last 12 months we have begun to focus on key priority locations, developing and initiating projects to address DWPA.

- Loud and Chipping Phosphate and Natural Flood Risk Management
- Long Preston Floodplain Partnership (and Ribblesdale Farm Group)
- Ribble and Douglas Farm Advice project
- Better Rivers Better Northwest Farm Groups (Douglas, Hyndburn)

Future Plans

Continue to deliver targeted farm visits and interventions in priority locations across the Ribble and Douglas, seeking to utilise a range of funding sources to support interventions (such as countryside Stewardship). Identify further priority locations to establish farm groups and deliver advice, drawing on information from the Collaborative Monitoring Plans and the CaSTCo project.

Wrea Green Community Catchment

Instigated by the community, and supported and enabled by the Trust securing funding through the EA National NFM programme, our project will deliver Run-off Management, specifically Run-off pathway management, by seeking to divert water, particularly surface water from streams that flow out of Ribby Hall, and from drainage on Brown's Lane into a new storage pond, designed to hold a minimum level of water for biodiversity benefit, but with capacity to store up to 5500m³ of storm water, which it will then release slowly. The project has two phases, firstly to install monitoring equipment and develop a full business case, and subject to a positive decision on the full business case delivery of the works.

It will work with existing ponds and water courses to produce a cluster of connected features providing NFM benefit. The project was developed through Ribble Life for Water (a Water Environment Grant funded project), The project will also improve water quality, whilst providing new habitat for priority species (eels).

Future Plans

Install the monitoring equipment and submit a full business case for the EA National NFM Programme project to secure funding for delivery of works in 2025.

Angling Passport Scheme

The Angling Passport Scheme continues to be a success with significant numbers of anglers utilising the Trust's fishing, particularly at Mitton. Improvements to the access at Mitton have been completed, with further improvements being planned in 2024.

Future Plans

The Angling Passport Scheme will continue to operate, and the Trust will seek to expand and increase the availability of fishing within the catchment.

Fylde Waters Outdoor Learning

Working with the Earnest Cook Trust, the Trust has a dedicated outdoor learning officer delivering education and engagement activities with the public in the Fylde area, linking their actions and what they can do to water, and the links between the freshwater environment and the estuarine and marine environment.

Future Plans

Continue to deliver this programme of activity, and link to other initiatives being delivered in the Fylde area, such as Turning Tides and our proposed work on Main Drain and Liggard Brook.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Trawden Natural Flood Risk Management

Continuation of previous work the Trust and EA have commenced creation of a Farm Group in the Trawden sub-catchment and undertaking farm visits, to identify interventions to deliver NFM across the Trawden catchment. Once opportunities are identified, and feasibility agreed, these will be costed including the payments to farmers to aid in exploring ways to create "investable" projects to draw in private sector funding.

Future Plans

To complete farm visits and secure agreement to deliver a range of actions to improve Trawden Brook, and reduce flood risk to Trawden, develop and "investment" plan to attract private funding to deliver the work, and to share learning from the project with other communities and organisations.

Room for Rivers:

Opening Up the River Douglas (OUR Douglas)

The OUR Douglas projects was completed in June of 2023, with Gathurst fish easement opened up, and monitoring confirming it met the requirements for fish passage. Additionally a weir was removed in Tawd Valley Park, part of the vision for the Park, this removal represented one of the fastest weir removals recorded in the UK, from first visit to end of works. The complete removal ensures full passage for all species, and observations have shown a wider diversity of species upstream of the weir as a result. This project was nicely celebrated with an incredible mural painted onto the bridge just downstream of the project site, containing pictures of all the key species.

Future Plans

Having now completed this project, the Trust will now review the Fisheries Strategy for the Douglas to identify future opportunities.

Eco-regen Lancashire

Eco-regeneration Lancashire is an Environment Agency Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund project. It is seeking to explore governance models, specifically cooperatives, that will enable many of the barriers to landscape, or catchment scale, restoration/improvement through public and private funding. It aims to address the issue of scale and rate of improvement by enabling aggregation of a large number of smaller projects at priority locations across a catchment, which have quantified costs and benefits, and to subsequently create a business plan that will attract "investment" in the projects, buyers and funders of the benefits and income for providers of projects. The project concluded in December 2023, with an outline business plan costed and developed.

Future Plans

Seek funding and opportunities to establish and initiate cooperatives and private funding and finance to progress the business plan and increase the scale of delivery.

Deeper Connections

Working as a delivery partners to Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, the Trust completed the works and activities of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund project "Deeper Connections" funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and DEFRA. This project delivered creation and restoration of 10 hectares of habitat, focusing on wildlife corridors. This included 16 separate schemes focused on riparian woodlands and hedgerows, wetlands and tributaries, and provide natural flood management. It also connected 8,000 people to nature in the area, including under-represented communities, through improved access and interpretation, volunteering and events. Engaged over 26 farmers in the project, highlighting how sustainable agriculture can contribute to effective environmental management.

Future Plans

To continue our work with the Long Preston Floodplain Partnership.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Tawd Valley Wetlands

Working in collaboration with the Environment Agency and West Lancashire Borough Council, we have developed designs and obtained all permission for the construction of wetlands to separate surface water from sewers, which will slow the flow and improve water quality in the River Douglas.

Future Plans

Construction of the wetlands in spring 2024.

Lancashire Woodland Connect

The Trust's 10 year campaign to establish 500 Ha of woodland across Lancashire, with partners delivering in the areas outside of the Ribble Catchment, continue a pace. The campaign continued to see support from the Environment Agency, the Woodland Trust, United Utilities and the Forestry Commission as well as other partners. There is now a two year programme of woodland creation planned, which shows the growing momentum. The third full planting season started in late November, later than desired owing to the warm autumn and early winter delaying the supply of young trees, with 30 hectares planned for establishment by March 2024.

Future Plans

To continue the campaign and associated delivery of Lancashire Woodland Connect, seeking to integrate new funding expected to be announced in 2024, and to secure long-term funding commitments to aid in achievement of the campaign outcomes.

Jack's Key NFM

The EA approach RRT to work in partnership to further develop and deliver an outline NFM programme developed by the EA in response to flood risk requirements resulting from the decommissioning of the Jack's Key reservoir. NFM was seen as the only remaining option to reduce flood risk, as all other viable traditional defences had been delivered. The project identified and modelled potential interventions showing the range of benefits, and costed the hypothetical interventions. The project is now moving into a delivery phase to implement interventions identified in the project plan to decrease flood risk and deliver wider environmental benefit.

Future Plans:

To utilise budget made available by the EA in conjunction with other funding sources to deliver interventions identified.

Blackburn with Darwen NFM

Inspired by the Jack's Key project, and the ongoing relationship with Blackburn with Darwen council developed over a decade of activity across the Darwen catchment, the Trust has worked on a feasibility study for the wider Darwen catchment to model benefits and identify & agree interventions with a view to securing funding to instigate a large catchment wide programme of NFM. The modelling completed has shown significant potential benefit from NFM interventions, the Trust has now moved to securing permissions for delivery ahead of seeking funding from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for implementation.

Future Plans

Finalise the Feasibility Study with Blackburn with Darwen Council, and then seek delivery funding.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Species Survival: Room for Rivers

A programme of 12 projects was developed and funding applied for from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and DEFRA through the Species Survival Fund. The trust was informed of the application success in early January. This 2 year project will deliver a range of interventions across the catchment designed to help a number of key species, namely salmon, trout, eels, smelt and lamprey, but all of the other associated species, and beyond that will benefit from the proposed works, which include delivery of habitat creation and restoration/enhancement works, water quality improvement, and fish passage, resulting in of 7.63 ha of wetland and riparian habitat, and 37.71 km watercourse habitat connected.

The project will also deliver significant community engagement, and offer opportunities for volunteering in conservation activities and monitoring.

Future Plans

Complete the necessary activities to obtain permission to start, and then initiate the programme.

Mainstreaming Nature Based Solutions

This project is a national project, working across the water sector, seeking to mainstream Nature Based Solutions (NBS). NBS have the potential to provide multiple socio-economic and environmental benefits by tackling flooding, drought and water quality issues at landscape scale. The Trust have been delivering NBS under various guises for over a decade. However, there are systemic barriers currently preventing wider adoption and the benefits of NBS from being fully maximised, such as: fragmented/siloed investment, lack of standardisation and regulatory restrictions. This transformational programme of work brings together multi-sectorial expertise and leadership to collaboratively create and test new solutions to remove these barriers through real life case studies and facilitate and enable transition of NBS into business-as-usual to deliver greater value for customers, society, environment. The Trust will contribute to this programme widely, but will also act as a convenor for all rivers trusts in the North West, as well as to deliver a project which will demonstrate how we can mainstream NBS.

Future Plans

Continue to contribute to the wider programme, and develop our demonstration project with input from EA, Rivers Trust, United Utilities and other rivers trusts.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Monitoring for Change

CaSTCo

The Trust drew learnings from the previous years Riverblitz's (which aid in identifying "what", and "where" problems are, with a view to taking positive actions to improve the sub-catchment) and were a resounding success, pinpoint locations for follow up work, but also engaging and enthusing communities (confirmed with results of evaluation surveys issued to those present on the day). This approach is enabling rapid assessment of sub-catchments, and multiple sub-catchments per year to generate a robust overall assessment of a much larger area.

Future Plans

Deliver 1 Riverblitz a month from April to September in 2024, with an intention to continue this in 2025 and beyond. Demonstrate to volunteers the impact that the results have achieved, through sharing follow up actions delivered.

Turning Tides

Working with the Turning Tides partnership the Trust has commenced a project to develop a "decision making tool" which brought together a range of data and evidence that allow collaborative decision making. Additionally we secured some funding to support Citizen Science to monitor for faecal indicator organisms, and to undertake a feasibility study on Liggard Brook.

Future Plans

To put the decision making tool into use, and consider how it could be applied more widely. We also will seek to secure funding and work with landowners to deliver improvements to Liggard Brook, and continue supporting Citizen Scientists.

The Trust's delivery of its annual fisheries surveys continued with over 300 sites surveyed across the catchment. There was a "levelling" out of the results with some positives for Trout but overall similar results to the previous year.

In addition to electro fishing, a new strategy and programme of invertebrate sampling by the Trusts own in house freshwater ecologist at "sentinel sites" continued to complement the electro fishing data, but also aid in better informing the use and approach of our citizen science.

Monitoring of specific projects was also conducted to assess the outputs, and given an indication of expected outcomes. As well as ongoing monitoring of Otters, INNS, Bats and Habitat.

The data being collected continues to be used to generate evidence to guide the Trust's work. Particularly highlighting the locations for further investigation, interventions and the need for significantly more work to reverse the downward trend. New ways to interpret and use our data were developed, allowing rapid identification of target areas, and easier assessment of causes of poor results when combined with other data.

Other Projects and Future Plans

The Trust has also developed further projects and activities, and sought funding to enable delivery, these include a programme on Invasive Non-Native Species, River Clean-ups, more Community Catchment initiatives to deliver NFM, Works on Main Drain and Liggard Brook, and finally more river channel improvements across the catchment.

Financial review

The financial statements show that for the year ended 31 January 2024 net incoming resources were £77,320. There were net incoming resources on Unrestricted Funds of £49,754 and net incoming resources of £27,566 on Restricted Funds. The balance of the unrestricted funds at 31 January 2024 was £478,741 and the balance of the restricted funds at that date was £718,263.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to establish Unrestricted Funds of at least £500,000 in order to be in a position to fund individual projects to this or a greater value, particularly bearing in mind that much of the grant assistance receivable is paid following either part or full completion of such projects. Reserves also provide a fund which is available to deal with unforeseen events such as the need to reduce staff numbers if grant assistance should reduce.

Investment policy

The subsidiary company, Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited traded during the year, providing consultancy services. A profit of £49,012 was generated during the year.

Structure, governance and management

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity. It is enrolled with Entrust, the regulator of environmental bodies under the Landfill Tax regulations. It is also a member of the Rivers Trust and the Angling Trust. The Trust operates under the name "Ribble Rivers Trust".

Trustees are recruited by recommendation of existing Trustees and members. Induction and training is undertaken by existing trustees and staff.

The Trustees meet formally on a quarterly basis and liaise constantly between meetings amongst themselves and with the Trust's staff, particularly the Chief Executive Officer to whom day-to-day management of the Trust is delegated.

The Trustees review the major risks to which the Trust is exposed. Risk is assessed on an overall basis as well as on a project-by-project basis. The Trust maintains appropriate insurance cover including employer's liability, public liability, professional indemnity, and trustee liability. The cost of the trustee liability insurance for the year was £821.

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:

J A Cowburn
J E Alcock
J F Bleasedale
D W Bradley
M J Ellacot
J P Lord
C H Marchbank
J J B Rawkins
A T Rowntree
D J Wilmot
J L Yates

Remuneration policy

The Remuneration Committee agrees the pay and remuneration of key management personnel after considering the remuneration paid for similar posts.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Ribble Rivers Trust Limited (Formerly Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Ltd) 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; 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.

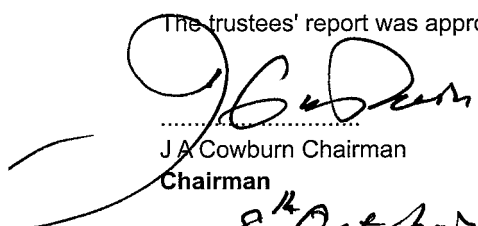
Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that PM+M Solutions for Business LLP be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

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


.....
J A Cowburn Chairman
Chairman

Date: 8th October 2024

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ribble Rivers Trust Limited (Formerly Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Ltd) (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 January 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 January 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we have considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the Charity's remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
 - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and involving relevant specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: timing of recognition of commercial income, posting of unusual journals and complex transactions; and manipulating the Charity's performance profit measures and other key performance indicators to meet remuneration targets and externally communicated targets. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act, Charities Act, employment law, health and safety regulations, pensions legislation and tax legislation.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the identified risks of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

Ceri Dixon BSc (Hons) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

10th October 2024

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

New Century House
Greenbank Technology Park
Challenge Way
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 5QB

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
						As restated	
Income from:							
Charitable activities	3	116,148	1,828,983	1,945,131	121,887	2,039,824	2,161,711
Investments	4	9,086	-	9,086	1,323	-	1,323
Total income		125,234	1,828,983	1,954,217	123,210	2,039,824	2,163,034
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	75,480	1,801,417	1,876,897	73,042	2,164,298	2,237,340
Total expenditure		75,480	1,801,417	1,876,897	73,042	2,164,298	2,237,340
Net income/(expenditure)		49,754	27,566	77,320	50,168	(124,474)	(74,306)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	(12,631)	12,631	-
Net movement in funds	7	49,754	27,566	77,320	37,537	(111,843)	(74,306)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 February 2023		428,987	690,697	1,119,684	391,450	802,540	1,193,990
Fund balances at 31 January 2024		478,741	718,263	1,197,004	428,987	690,697	1,119,684

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 JANUARY 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		16,251		10,030
Investments	13		100		100
			<u>16,351</u>		<u>10,130</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	14	469,973		677,961	
Cash at bank and in hand		764,477		510,891	
		<u>1,234,450</u>		<u>1,188,852</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(53,297)		(78,798)	
Net current assets			<u>1,181,153</u>		<u>1,110,054</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,197,504</u>		<u>1,120,184</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16		(500)		(500)
Net assets			<u>1,197,004</u>		<u>1,119,684</u>
Net assets			<u><u>1,197,004</u></u>		<u><u>1,119,684</u></u>
The funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	18		718,263		690,697
Unrestricted funds	19		478,741		428,987
			<u>1,197,004</u>		<u>1,119,684</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 8.15.24

J A Cowburn Chairman

A T Rowntree
Secretary and treasurer

Company registration number 03498691 (England and Wales)

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	23		261,699		(144,216)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(17,200)		(3,660)	
Investment income received		9,087		1,323	
Net cash used in investing activities			(8,113)		(2,337)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			253,586		(146,553)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			510,891		657,444
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>764,477</u>		<u>510,891</u>

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Ribble Rivers Trust Limited (Formerly Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Ltd) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is C/O Heidelberg Materials, Ribblesdale Works, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 4QF.

1.1 Accounting convention

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 has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

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

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.

1.4 Income

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

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

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.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

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

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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:

Motor vehicles	25% Straight Line
----------------	-------------------

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

1.7 Fixed asset investments

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

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.9 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

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

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Employee benefits

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

1.11 Retirement benefits

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

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 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Subscriptions and donations	51,671	28,275	79,946	59,626	29,416	89,042
Donations from subsidiary company	40,633	-	40,633	38,178	-	38,178
Gift in kind - office accommodation	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	-	20,000
Grants and contributions receivable	-	1,800,708	1,800,708	-	2,010,408	2,010,408
Angling passport tokens	3,844	-	3,844	4,083	-	4,083
	<u>116,148</u>	<u>1,828,983</u>	<u>1,945,131</u>	<u>121,887</u>	<u>2,039,824</u>	<u>2,161,711</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Bank interest	<u>9,086</u>	<u>1,323</u>

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	732,512	808,602
Depreciation and impairment	10,978	8,083
Gift in kind - office accommodation	20,000	20,000
Accountancy	10,464	13,779
Governance costs	10,500	8,200
Legal and professional fees	47,172	12,581
Training	30,928	30,843
Telephone, internet and website	14,013	14,650
Minor equipment	40,183	12,752
Insurance	14,848	9,309
Subscriptions	3,198	2,000
Office supplies	9,350	11,118
Bank charges	899	850
Advertising	4,257	19,236
Habitat improvement works	884,013	1,222,968
Newsletters	1,551	2,252
Motor and travel expenses	37,642	35,313
Other charitable expenditure	4,389	4,804
	<u>1,876,897</u>	<u>2,237,340</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	75,480	73,042
Restricted funds	1,801,417	2,164,298
	<u>1,876,897</u>	<u>2,237,340</u>

6 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Governance costs	10,500	8,200
Analysed between:		
Audit Fees	8,500	8,200
Accountancy	2,000	-
	<u>10,500</u>	<u>8,200</u>

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

7 Net movement in funds

2024

£

2023

£

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements

8,500

8,200

Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets

10,978

8,083

8 Trustees

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

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2024
Number

2023
Number

Engaged in Projects

23

25

Administration

1

1

Total

24

26

Employment costs

2024

£

2023

£

Wages and salaries

614,880

691,516

Social security costs

62,545

64,883

Other pension costs

55,087

52,203

732,512

808,602

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

2024
Number

2023
Number

£70,000 - £79,999

-

1

£80,000 - £89,999

1

-

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

2024

£

2023

£

Aggregate compensation

363,298

306,022

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

9 Employees

(Continued)

The key management personnel of the parent charity comprise the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Core Services, Head of People and Learning, Strategic Evidence and GIS Manager, Head of Land Management and Head of River Conservation.

10 Taxation

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

11 Restatement

The prior year SOFA has been restated to transfer fee income to expenditure. This is to make it comparable to current year figures.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles £
Cost	
At 1 February 2023	128,236
Additions	17,200
At 31 January 2024	145,436
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 February 2023	118,207
Depreciation charged in the year	10,978
At 31 January 2024	129,185
Carrying amount	
At 31 January 2024	16,251
At 31 January 2023	10,030

13 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 February 2023 & 31 January 2024	100
Carrying amount	
At 31 January 2024	100
At 31 January 2023	100

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

14 Debtors	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	101,680	69,054
Other debtors	364,453	604,764
Prepayments and accrued income	3,840	4,143
	<u>469,973</u>	<u>677,961</u>
15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	42,551	64,695
Accruals and deferred income	10,746	14,103
	<u>53,297</u>	<u>78,798</u>
16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors	500	500
	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
17 Retirement benefit schemes	2024	2023
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	55,087	52,203
	<u>55,087</u>	<u>52,203</u>

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.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

18 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 February 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 January 2024 £
National Lottery Heritage Fund	76,453	-	(50,523)	-	25,930
Environment Agency	120,824	382,779	(473,998)	-	29,605
United Utilities	189,121	504,025	(231,864)	-	461,282
The Rivers Trust	29,172	-	(5,481)	-	23,691
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	69,739	190,510	(275,000)	-	(14,751)
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	(4,238)	-	1,674	-	(2,564)
Lancashire Woodland Connect	42,461	1,292	(76)	-	43,677
National Lottery Heritage Fund (Green Recovery Challenge Fund)	43,299	359,763	(324,175)	-	78,887
Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust (Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund - Green Recovery Challenge Fund)	134	28,260	(28,394)	-	-
The Woodland Trust	24,692	245,532	(180,471)	-	89,753
BAE	9,324	(2,324)	-	(7,000)	-
Others	89,716	119,146	(233,109)	7,000	(17,247)
	<u>690,697</u>	<u>1,828,983</u>	<u>(1,801,417)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>718,263</u>

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

18 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 February 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 January 2023 £
National Lottery Heritage Fund	168,967	30,903	(123,417)	-	76,453
Environment Agency	12,305	706,416	(595,618)	(2,279)	120,824
United Utilities	111,641	254,753	(170,212)	(7,061)	189,121
The Rivers Trust	31,729	2,312	(4,869)	-	29,172
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	211,184	278,622	(426,737)	6,670	69,739
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	(1,556)	35,416	(38,098)	-	(4,238)
Lancashire Woodland Connect	109,321	1,403	(68,263)	-	42,461
National Lottery Heritage Fund (Green Recovery Challenge Fund)	64,472	427,010	(448,183)	-	43,299
Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust (Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund - Green Recovery Challenge Fund)	28,674	100,217	(128,757)	-	134
The Woodland Trust	-	86,120	(80,679)	19,251	24,692
BAE	-	9,324	-	-	9,324
Others	65,803	107,328	(79,465)	(3,950)	89,716
	802,540	2,039,824	(2,164,298)	12,631	690,697

Within our projects that are delivered through provision of restricted funding by external Funders, we take a holistic approach to addressing the issues, as such the description below focuses on the significant activities delivered using the funds, however most funding will contribute to a range of activities.

Environment Agency – We receive support from both national and local programmes. The local programmes support delivery of fish and eel passage projects, woodland creation (through Tributrees), habitat improvements and farm advice across the Catchment (Ribble and Douglas Farm Advice), natural flood risk management projects (Trawden NFM) and engagement activities (Darwen Environment and Engagement Project). Nationally there is support for hosting the Ribble Catchment Partnership – Ribble Life, and the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) project Eco-regen Lancashire, which explored ways to increase private funding and investment in the restoration of the Ribble Catchment.

United Utilities – Delivering farm advice and improvements to farm infrastructure in the “Tidal Ribble” area of the Catchment to the west of Preston and support to the Wyre Rivers Trust in the “Tidal Wyre” area. Delivering farm advice and developing a capital works programme to improve water quality in the River Loud Catchment, and Wayoh. As well as the “Catchment System Thinking” grant for “Valuing Ribble’s Water Woods” seeking to determine the economic value of woodland for water quality improvements, and opportunities for green finance to support woodland creation. United Utilities have also provide funding through the Ofwat Innovation Funded projects Mainstreaming Nature Based Solutions, which seeks to increase the use of nature based projects to address water sector issues. As well as the Catchment Monitoring Cooperative seeking to increase Citizen Science to influence decision making.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

18 Restricted funds

(Continued)

The Rivers Trust – delivering habitat improvements through woodland creation to provide multiple ecosystem services and benefits across the Ribble Catchment, and exploring Green Finance for woodland creation in the “Trees for Water” project, a juvenile salmon monitoring programme, and in collaboration with United Utilities the better rivers better northwest programme of farm groups. We also received funding from the Rivers Trust for a DEFRA “Test and Trial”, which is a project seeking to obtain input from farmers into the development of the new agri-environment schemes.

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – Funding supported the “Opening Up the River Douglas (OUR Douglas)” project involving 8 priority fish passage projects across the Douglas sub-catchment, as well as funding from Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.

Lancashire Woodland Connect – a 10 year woodland creation campaign started in January 2020, which has sought financial support from a range of organisations and the public. This includes support from Pendle, Hyndburn, Rossendale, West Lancashire, Lancaster, and Ribble Valley councils. It also received funding from a range of corporate donors and individuals.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Green Recovery Challenge Fund – Supporting the “Health and Environmental Action Lancashire (HEAL)” project, which is delivering woodland, wetland, access, volunteering and education activities across Lancashire. The Green Recovery Challenge Fund also includes funding from the Department for the Environment Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - supporting farm cooperation through facilitation as well as woodland creation and activities linked to the Facilitation Fund, Ribblesdale Farm Group.

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund supports the Deeper Connection project which is the next evolution of the Ribblesdale Farm Group, supporting a range of habitat creation and restoration projects across the Long Preston Deepes (and surrounding area). The Green Recovery Challenge Fund also includes funding from the Department for the Environment Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The Woodland Trust – The Grow Back Greener funding, associated to the Northern Forest supporting woodland creation across the catchment.

Others - A range of schools contributing to our education campaign; Whalley Village Hall donation for woodland creation around Whalley; Skipton Properties a donation to woodland creation around Long Preston Deepes; Enforcement Undertakings for river restoration projects; Trees for Cities and Natural England for activities with community groups.

19 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 February 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 January 2024 £
General funds	<u>428,987</u>	<u>125,234</u>	<u>(75,480)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>478,741</u>

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024

19 Unrestricted funds

(Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 February 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 January 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	391,450	123,210	(73,042)	(12,631)	428,987

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 January 2024:			
Tangible assets	12,905	3,346	16,251
Investments	100	-	100
Debtors	172,605	297,368	469,973
Cash	304,377	460,100	764,477
Current liabilities	(10,746)	(42,551)	(53,297)
Long term liabilities	(500)	-	(500)
	478,741	718,263	1,197,004
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 January 2023:			
Tangible assets	3,343	6,687	10,030
Investments	100	-	100
Debtors	74,983	602,976	677,959
Cash	364,410	146,483	510,893
Current liabilities	(13,349)	(65,449)	(78,798)
Long term liabilities	(500)	-	(500)
	428,987	690,697	1,119,684

21 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the Charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	4,173	5,913

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED (FORMERLY RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LTD)

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

22 Related party transactions

During the year the following transactions took place between the Trust and Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited, a company registered in England and Wales which is a wholly owned subsidiary:

The Trust recharged costs of £72,950 (2023 - £29,530) to the subsidiary and the subsidiary company made a donation of £40,633 (2023 - £38,178) to the Trust.

At 31 January 2024 there was an amount of £101,680 (2023 - £69,054) included in debtors in respect of Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited.

During the year, unrestricted cash contributions received from Trustees and companies in which they have an interest amounted to £8,141.

23 Cash generated from operations	2024 £	2023 £
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	77,320	74,306
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(9,086)	(1,323)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	10,978	8,083
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	207,988	(82,729)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(25,501)	6,059
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	261,699	(144,216)

24 Analysis of changes in net funds

The Charity had no material debt during the year.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1070672

Accounts

charity Co

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTERED NUMBER 1070672

COMPANY REGISTERED NUMBER 03498691

**PM+M SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
NEW CENTURY HOUSE
GREENBANK TECHNOLOGY PARK
CHALLENGE WAY
BLACKBURN
BB1 5QB**

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

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RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Charity Commission number 1070672

Company number 03498691

The Trust is established as a company limited by guarantee and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The affairs of the Trust are governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The liability of the members in the event of the Trust being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £10. The Trust operates under the name "Ribble Rivers Trust".

Trustees

Chairman

J A Cowburn

Secretary and Treasurer

A T Rowntree

Other Trustees

J E Alcock

J F Bleasdale

D W Bradley

M J Ellacott

J P Lord

C H Marchbank

J J B Rawkins

D J Wilmot

J L Yates

Key Management Personnel

J Spees

C Jaggs

H Hamilton Thorpe

A Walmsley

K Oddie

E Brown

Chief Executive Officer

Head of Core Services

Head of People and Learning

Head of River Conservation

Head of Land Management

Strategic Evidence and GIS Manager

Registered Office

c/o Hanson Cement

Ribblesdale Works

Clitheroe

BB7 4QF

Principal Office

c/o Hanson Cement

Ribblesdale Works

Clitheroe

BB7 4QF

Advisers

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

Drummond House

3, Redheughs Avenue

Edinburgh, EH12 9RH

Independent Auditors

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

New Century House

Greenbank Technology Park

Challenge Way

Blackburn

BB1 5QB

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2016).

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity. It is enrolled with Entrust, the regulator of environmental bodies under the Landfill Tax regulations. It is also a member of the Rivers Trust and the Angling Trust. The Trust operates under the name "Ribble Rivers Trust".

Trustees are recruited by recommendation of existing Trustees and members. Induction and training is undertaken by existing trustees and staff.

The Trustees meet formally on a quarterly basis and liaise constantly between meetings amongst themselves and with the Trust's staff, particularly the Chief Executive Officer to whom day-to-day management of the Trust is delegated.

The Trustees review the major risks to which the Trust is exposed. Risk is assessed on an overall basis as well as on a project-by-project basis. The Trust maintains appropriate insurance cover including employer's liability, public liability, professional indemnity, and trustee liability. The cost of the trustee liability insurance for the year was £811.

Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Remuneration Committee agrees the pay and remuneration of key management personnel after considering the remuneration paid for similar posts.

Objectives and Activities

The aim of the Trust:

The aim of the Trust (set out in the Memorandum of Association of the Trust) is to secure the Conservation, Protection, Rehabilitation and improvement of rivers, streams, water courses, water impoundments, banksides, and tributaries, catchment areas and estuaries in particular of the Rivers Ribble, Calder and Hodder for the benefit of the public.

The Trust seeks to achieve this aim by using a holistic strategy that uses the process, of "Identify – Improve – Sustain" to address all issues affecting the catchment. In achieving this strategy the Trust has set the following objectives:

1. Undertake and support annual monitoring, investigation and research activities to identify and quantify issues and impacts that affect the Ribble Catchment.
2. Collate evidence from objective 1 to prioritise and deliver an annual restoration and improvement programme of activities across the catchment.
3. Wherever possible to influence and encourage partners delivering activities within the catchment to undertake actions in partnership to deliver improvements to the River Ribble and its tributaries.
4. To continuously engage and educate all communities, stakeholders and interest groups to address wider issues and ensure improvements are maximised and sustained.

Delivery of Objectives:

In delivery of the objectives Ribble Rivers Trust employs a team of dedicated, experienced and highly qualified staff. The skills and experience of the Trust reflect the holistic strategy, and the Trust is committed to continually developing the employees through external and internal training, and providing opportunities to work on different projects to provide broader involvement in the Trust's activities.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED TRUSTEES' REPORT

Volunteers:

The Trust relies upon the support of volunteers for a range of activities, including, tree planting, fencing, river clean ups, surveying and monitoring, education activities and administration and technical support (including website maintenance, and design work). The volunteers represent a significant component of the activity of the Trust, the value of the volunteer contribution ranges from £50 per day to £350 per day. During the year the Trust benefited from 6,089 hours put in by 300 volunteers with a value calculated at £72,338.

Public benefit:

The outcomes of the Trust's strategy and activities are vital to the continued conservation of the Ribble Catchment. The Trust provides a range of benefits to the public, commonly referred to as "Ecosystem Services", these include benefits such as the provision of high quality recreation areas and assets, reduction in flood risk, reductions in the risk of droughts, improvements to water quality (bringing benefit to biodiversity and bathing waters), and sustainable food production. The methodology employed in delivery of the objectives is to work with the communities and stakeholders who use and enjoy the catchment. This involves provision of opportunities to be directly involved, and also for the Trust to provide information on its work to its partners, funders and the public through reports, presentations, attendance at public events, newsletters, our website, and social media. Such partnership working helps to ensure that the Trust is delivering its core objectives effectively in the public interest, but also ensures and maximises wider direct and indirect socio-economic public benefits.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities, which is an annual process.

Achievements and Activities, including Plans for Future Periods

During the year to January 31st 2023 the Trust's activity focused around:

- Hosting an end of Project Celebration for Ribble Life Together, and commencing plans for the next phase of the Ribble Life Partnership
- The delivery of the Health and Environmental Action Lancashire (HEAL) project, supporting the creation of three micro community tree nurseries, wetlands, woodlands and health walks.
- Continuation of the works to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture in priority areas through our previously Natural England Facilitation Fund Farm Group in the Loud Catchment near Chipping, which has commenced, delivering a catchment scale project with United Utilities. Additionally working in partnership with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust evolving the Farm Group in the Upper Ribble, the Ribblesdale Farm Group, looking at Habitat creation and restoration to support reduced Diffuse Pollution and improved Natural Flood Risk Management, through Deeper Connections.
- Commencing Eco-Regeneration Lancashire, a Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund supported project, seeking to develop "investable" environmental projects across the catchment.
- Continuing the Lancashire Woodland Connect campaign, that builds on our riparian and catchment woodland programme, seeking to deliver a decade of woodland creation.
- Commencement on the Darwen Evidence and Engagement Project, seeking to enable community input and action to improve the River Darwen.
- Commencing the Darwen and Trawden Natural Flood Risk Management projects.
- Development and delivery of education activities across the catchment, including involving school children in delivery of improvement works, and learning to fish.
- Continuation of the Opening Up the River Douglas (OUR Douglas) programme involving delivery of 8 fish passage projects in the Douglas Catchment by summer 2023, supported by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities with support from Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.
- Ongoing monitoring of fish, invertebrates, and water chemistry and other species that indicate the health of the Ribble Catchment.
- Commencement of the Catchment System Thinking Monitoring Cooperative (CaSTCo) project, seeking to increase the use of citizen science to inform action and plans by a range of stakeholders.
- Completion of the Ribble Life for Water Programme of projects. These projects include Peat Restoration, Weir Removals, In Channel Habitat, Fish Passage, Farm Advice and Feasibility studies.
- Completion of another phase of work at Primrose Natural Reserve including a reed bed and new footpaths and bridges.
- Continuing our work to prioritise our activities, using spatial data and evidence through Geographical Information Systems and models.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Ribble Life and Ribble Life Together

The Ribble Life partnership initiative aims to bring together all active organisations within the Ribble Catchment to help to deliver an improved river environment for people and wildlife. In March 2022, we held an end of project celebration event marking the completion of Ribble Life Together. This was well attended and showcased the amazing work delivered over the previous years.

The partnership continued to meet throughout the year, with an increasing focus on reviewing the catchment action plan and developing a new one.

Future Plans

In 2023 we will complete a data and evidence review to present to the partnership to then set out the priorities and key actions that will form the new catchment action plan.

Health and Environmental Action Lancashire

The HEAL project, is seeking to increase volunteer involvement in improving the environment and boosting physical health. Developed from the Data and Evidence work that was completed in 2021, that identified priority locations for environmental improvement to support improvement in physical health, this project was supported by the DEFRA and National Lottery Heritage Fund Green Recovery Challenge Fund. It is seeking to deliver woodlands, wetlands, and hedgerow creation. As well as heathland and grassland management, health walks and community tree nurseries. Much of the work is now complete, and feedback from volunteers and partners has been excellent.

Future Plans

Complete the final woodlands of the project, and seek to sustain the health walks and community tree nurseries which have been very popular and well attended.

Tidal Ribble

The focus of this project has been to deliver on farm infrastructure activities that will reduce the quantity of faecal indicator organisms that flow into the Ribble Estuary and affect a number of the designated Bathing Waters off the Fylde Coast. Over the last year, this project has moved towards monitoring and support activities, ensuring previously delivered works are achieving the desired outcomes.

Future Plans

Continue to support farm businesses in the project area to reduce Faecal Indicator Organisms.

Diffuse pollution from Agriculture

Diffuse pollution from agriculture continues to have a significant negative affect on the Ribble Catchment, an estimate of 28% of the Ribble Catchments water bodies not in "good status" are identified as being as a result of diffuse pollution from Agriculture. This complex and challenging problem requires large scale integration of activities to significantly reduce the inputs of diffuse pollution. The Trust has sought, and continues to seek, to expand the scale of delivery addressing diffuse pollution through increasing the awareness and knowledge of current and future environmental and land management professionals, and supporting and delivering on-farm interventions with farmers. This is being done in partnership with a number of organisations, through projects such as the Ribble and Douglas Farm Advice project (supported by the Environment Agency), DEFRA Environmental Land Management Schemes Test and Trials, Loud and Chipping Phosphate and Natural Flood Risk Management Project (supported by United Utilities) and several other projects. Increased emphasis on targeted interventions in most beneficial locations has been made, and aligning and highlighting of the benefits of this work to a wider range of beneficiaries has been undertaken. The success of this has seen an increasing number of farmers paying for the support the Trust provides.

Future Plans

Continue to deliver targeted farm visits and interventions in priority locations across the Ribble and Douglas, seeking to utilise a range of funding sources to support interventions (such as countryside Stewardship). Commence delivery of the Loud and Chipping Phosphate and NFM project, and continue to work with wider farmers to deliver catchment benefit.

Natural Course

A fourth phase of Natural Course is soon to commence, looking at place based planning along the Fylde Coast.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Future Plans

Work with the "Fylde Hub" to establish a place based planning approach to develop and deliver more works to improve water Quality

Eco-regen Lancashire

Eco-regeneration Lancashire is an Environment Agency Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund project. It is seeking to explore governance models, specifically cooperatives, that will enable many of the barriers to landscape, or catchment scale, restoration/improvement through public and private funding. It aims to address the issue of scale and rate of improvement by enabling aggregation of a large number of smaller projects at priority locations across a catchment, which have quantified costs and benefits, and to subsequently create a business plan that will attract "investment" in the projects, buyers and funders of the benefits and income for providers of projects. The project is largely focused on areas where the Trust has established farm groups, who can input into the development of governance and the business plan, in a inclusive and collaborative way, as well as talking with investors, funders and corporate bodies who might collaborate in the initiative. Work to date has been positive with farmers participating, and the feedback indicating a Cooperative is a viable approach.

Future Plans

Develop an outline delivery and business plan with appropriate governance established to enable the formation of the cooperative and deliver of the plan.

Lancashire Woodland Connect

This 10 year campaign launched in 2020, built on the learnings of the first 3 phases of Natural Course, by delivering multiple benefits (such as improvements to water quality, providing habitat and shade to protect from expected climate change temperature increase, and not least provision of significant carbon sequestration) to multiple beneficiaries for different priorities, this campaign seeks to bring together partners and beneficiaries to increase the scales of woodland creation (particularly riparian and water focused) across the county. Thus far 6 local authorities, the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, private sector and the public have financially supported the campaign, with the campaign target for woodland creation on track (500,000 trees over 10 years). This has also led to the establishment of a partnership with the Woodland Trust through "Grow Back Greener" which will see further financial support for woodland creation to benefit water, as well as support from United Utilities and The Rivers Trust to explore the potential for Green Finance in supporting woodland creation.

Future Plans

To continue the campaign and associated delivery of Lancashire Woodland Connect, which has grown and developed such that there is now a programme of woodland creation up to 2 years in advance.

The River Darwen

IN 2012 the Trust began its first activities in the River Darwen sub-catchment, this resulted in some initial small fish passage projects, followed by the BRILLIANCE project in 2018 which saw a number of improvement projects in the River Darwen catchment. This was followed by the fish easement at Holland Wood Weir (through Ribble Life for Water) and a feasibility study at Roach Bridge, which are now completed. In 2022, we commenced a project in partnership with the Environment Agency to increase engagement with, and better understand the environmental priorities, of the communities within the Darwen sub-catchment. This led to the development of the Natural Flood Risk Management project with Blackburn with Darwen district council, and a separate project with the EA at Jack's Key seeking to develop and subsequently delivery a quantified plan of action to improve the River Darwen, and decrease flood risk.

Future Plans

The increase in focus and activity on the River Darwen, aims to see an ongoing programme of improvements to benefit the wildlife and people of the Darwen catchment, it is expected that physical delivery will commence in 2023/24 with over 3 years of ongoing action.

Trawden Natural Flood Risk Management

Building on previous work by the Environment Agency, the Trust has now commenced a partnership project with them seeking to develop a delivery plan, through creation of a Farm Group in the Trawden sub-catchment, undertaking farm visits, and exploring ways to create "investable" projects to draw in private sector funding.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Future Plans

To complete farm visits and secure agreement to deliver a range of actions to improve Trawden Brook, and reduce flood risk to Trawden, develop and "investment" plan to attract private funding to deliver the work, and to share learning from the project with other communities and organisations.

Education

The education activities of "River in the Classroom" offer a wide range of activities for schools that can be done individually or in combination. This is seen as a fundamental area of activity for the trust, particularly expanding our coverage and the number of schools and pupils involved.

Future Plans

Continuation of the education programme, with increased emphasis on securing longer term sustainability to ensure that the successes delivered thus far can continue and be expanded.

Opening Up the River Douglas (OUR Douglas)

The OUR Douglas projects seeks to deliver 8 fish passage projects in priority locations across the Douglas, with funding from the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities, Groundwork Cheshire Lancashire and Merseyside, and the Environment Agency. Building on previous evidence and development work, this ambitious project is the first significant physical delivery project for the Trust in the Douglas catchment. 3 more fish passage projects were completed in 2022, taking the total to 6 to date, with plans in place to complete the final two fish passage projects early in 2023.

Future Plans

The Trust will complete the project plan, and then begin considering wider delivery across the Douglas working with the Catchment Partnership.

Angling Passport Scheme

The Angling Passport Scheme continues to be a success with significant numbers of anglers utilising the Trust's fishing, particularly at Mitton. Improvements to the access at Mitton are being sought to bolster the numbers of anglers utilising the entire beat. Sales of tickets have now moved wholly online, and instant purchases now possible.

Future Plans

The Angling Passport Scheme will continue to operate, and the Trust will seek to expand and increase the availability of fishing within the catchment.

Monitoring

The Trust's delivery of its annual fisheries surveys continued with over 300 sites surveyed across the catchment. A continuation of the decrease in salmon and trout fry was observed. Analysis of the data, has identified that very high water levels in the period February to April, combined with very low water levels through late spring and early summer appear to be a major factor in this decline.

In addition to electro fishing, a new strategy and programme of invertebrate sampling by the Trusts own in house freshwater ecologist at "sentinel sites" was established to complement the electro fishing data, but also aid in better informing the use and approach of our citizen science.

Monitoring of specific projects was also conducted to assess the outputs, and given an indication of expected outcomes. As well as ongoing monitoring of Otters, INNS, Bats and Habitat.

The data being collected continues to be used to generate evidence to guide the Trust's work. Particularly highlighting the need for significantly more work to reverse the downward trend. New ways to interpret and use our data were developed, allowing rapid identification of target areas, and easier assessment of causes of poor results when combined with other data.

CaSTCo

The commencement of the CaSTCo project, sought to build on the previous experiences and learning of our Riverfly monitoring and volunteers. We aim to increase the amount of Riverfly, and other, sampling, but also the use of the data and subsequent evidence to drive more positive change in rivers. This will see the Trust trial "River Blitz's" where other data and evidence identifies the need for more targeted investigation, we will undertake a river blitz using volunteers to simultaneously sample across a sub-catchment, using more advanced

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED TRUSTEES' REPORT

techniques, to aid in identifying "what", and "where" problems are, with a view to taking positive actions to improve the sub-catchment. This was successfully trialled in Wigglesworth Beck, with results being used by the Trust's farm advisors to undertake visits and works to improve the Beck.

Future Plans

Continue to undertake targeted River Blitz's and work with volunteers to better understand how we can use their data and subsequent evidence to drive positive action and change in our catchments.

Ribble Life for Water

This project, completed in December 2022, was originally a 2 year programme of 10 projects across the catchment, this has expanded to 4 years and 14 projects. Each project delivers or develops key improvements relating to a number of issues such as diffuse pollution, fish passage, geomorphology (mitigating heavily modified water bodies) and peat restoration. This should lead to improved water quality, increased natural flood risk management, and more natural processes in our rivers, as well as increases in riverine wildlife. This programme involves working with partners including the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Pendle Borough Council and the Forest of Bowland AONB. The final activities of the project were completing feasibility studies, and investigative studies that have identified further projects for which funding has subsequently been secured, or is being sought.

The Primrose Lodge Blue and Greenway project

Although the main part of the project was completed in 2021, 2022 saw an extension to the footpaths and installation of a new bridge, to improve access for all. A reedbed was also created to treat misconnections and road water run-off.

Future Plans

Consider and develop further phases of work, in conjunction with Primrose Community Nature Trust. To further enhance the environment and access within the site.

Developing Strategic Data and Evidence

A review of different tools was completed in 2022 with a number run and validated. The review identified the most appropriate tools and a process for implementing them that will underpin our operational activity to ensure maximum benefit is achieved. We also continued to increase the use of our data to influence the plans and activities of others as it grows in importance.

Future Plans

Linked to the Ribble Life partnership, we aim to create a catchment action plan using the strategic data and evidence, which will have two purposes, one for the catchment partnerships plan, and also setting out the Trust's own plan for the next 5 years.

Other Projects and Future Plans

The Trust continues to have a number of smaller site specific projects in progress, as well as a number currently being considered, and funding sought. These are largely aligned to the 7 main activity streams carried out by the Trust; Fish Passage, Farm Advice, Farm Land Habitat, Education & Engagement, Improving Access, Wetlands and Woodland Creation. It is hoped that these can be linked together through a programme or campaign of activity that will enable the Trust to secure further funding through traditional grants and partnership funding, but also developing funding opportunities through Natural Capital and Nature-based Solutions.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year, and subsequently, are as follows: -

J P Lord	Chairman (to 22 nd November 2022)
J A Cowburn	Chairman (from 22 nd November 2022)
J E Alcock	
J F Bleasdale	
D W Bradley	
M J Ellacott	
C H Marchbank	
J J B Rawkins	
A T Rowntree	
D J Wilmot	
J L Yates	

Financial Activities and Affairs

The financial statements show that for the year ended 31 January 2023 net outgoing resources were £74,306. There were net incoming resources on Unrestricted Funds of £37,537 and net outgoing resources of £111,843 on Restricted Funds. The balance of the unrestricted funds at 31 January 2023 was £428,987 and the balance of the restricted funds at that date was £690,697.

Investments

The subsidiary company, Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited traded during the year, providing consultancy services. A profit of £38,178 was generated during the year.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to establish Unrestricted Funds of at least £450,000 in order to be in a position to fund individual projects to this or a greater value, particularly bearing in mind that much of the grant assistance receivable is paid following either part or full completion of such projects. Reserves also provide a fund which is available to deal with unforeseen events such as the need to reduce staff numbers if grant assistance should reduce.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited for the purposes 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to: -

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

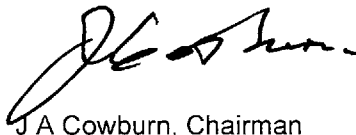
They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the trustees on 26.9.23 and signed on their behalf by



J A Cowburn, Chairman

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 January 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 January 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED**

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we have considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the Charity's remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and involving relevant specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: timing of recognition of commercial income, posting of unusual journals and complex transactions; and manipulating the Charity's performance profit measures and other key performance indicators to meet remuneration targets and externally communicated targets. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act, Charities Act, employment law, health and safety regulations, pensions legislation and tax legislation.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the identified risks of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

Ceri Dixon BSc Hons ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

28-09-2023

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

New Century House
Greenbank Technology Park
Challenge Way
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 5QB

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£		£	
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies					
Subscriptions and Donations		59,626	29,416	89,042	78,451
Donation from Subsidiary company		38,178	-	38,178	15,885
Gift in kind – office accommodation		20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Charitable Activities					
Grants and Contributions receivable		-	2,010,408	2,010,408	-
Other Grant income		-	-	-	-
Other trading activities		4,083	-	4,083	5,034
Angling Passport Tokens		10,112	-	10,112	12,864
Fee Income		1,323	-	1,323	90
Investments					
Bank Interest					
Total Income	4	133,322	2,039,824	2,173,146	132,324
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities					
Net income/ (expenditure)	5	83,154	2,164,298	2,247,452	94,829
Transfer between funds					
Net Movement in Funds	13	(12,631)	12,631	-	3,856
		37,537	(111,843)	(74,306)	41,351
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total Funds brought forward	13	391,450	802,540	1,193,990	350,099
Total Funds carried forward	13	428,987	690,697	1,119,684	391,450

All of the activities undertaken by the Trust were continuing activities. There were no gains or losses other than those reported in the Statement of Financial Activities. There are no endowment funds.

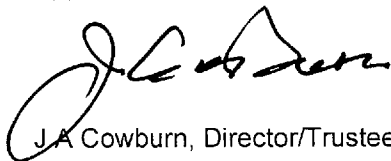
RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

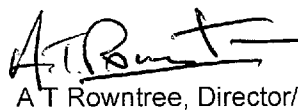
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JANUARY 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	7	10,030	14,453
Investment	8	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
		10,130	<u>14,553</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	9	677,961	595,232
Cash at bank		<u>510,891</u>	<u>657,444</u>
		1,188,852	1,252,676
CREDITORS:			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>78,798</u>	<u>72,689</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,110,054	1,179,987
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,120,184</u>	<u>1,194,540</u>
CREDITORS:			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	11	<u>500</u>	<u>550</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,119,684</u>	<u>1,193,990</u>
FUNDS	13		
Unrestricted Funds		428,987	391,450
Restricted Funds		<u>690,697</u>	<u>802,540</u>
		<u>1,119,684</u>	<u>1,193,990</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 26.9.23 and signed on their behalf by:


J A Cowburn, Director/Trustee


A T Rowntree, Director/Trustee

Company Number: 3498691

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

CASH FLOW STATEMENT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash generated in operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	(74,306)	15,199
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	8,083	9,330
Interest received	(1,323)	(90)
Increase in debtors	(82,729)	(155,775)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	6,059	38,659
Net cash generated from operating activities	(144,216)	(92,677)
 Purchase of fixed assets	 (3,660)	 (8,484)
Loans repaid	-	(250,000)
Interest received	1,323	90
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(2,337)	(258,394)
 Cash flows from financing activities		
Loans introduced	-	-
Net cash used in financing activities	-	-
 (Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(146,553)	(351,071)
 Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	 657,444	 1,008,515
 Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	 510,891	 657,444
 Cash and cash equivalents		
Current accounts	43,518	13,279
Deposit accounts	467,373	644,165
	510,891	657,444

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

1. Accounting Policies

General Information

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Central Buildings, Richmond Terrace, Blackburn, BB1 7AP.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2016) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The financial statements do not include the results of the subsidiary company Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited on the grounds the results of the company are not material to the charity's financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going Concern

The trustees have considered the Trust's ability to remain a going concern. There are no material uncertainties in the ability of the Trust to continue and therefore the Trust continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from charitable activities, which includes income received under contract where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions, is recognised as earned as the related services are provided and it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of activities or provision of other specified services is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Donations are accounted for when received by the Trust. Other income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Life membership subscriptions are spread over five years.

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements and performance related grants are recognised as goods or services are supplied. Other payments are recognised when a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable.

Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the provision of training and include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities.

Gifts in Kind

The Trust receives the benefit of work carried out by volunteers and receives the use of facilities and equipment without charge. Donated services and facilities are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the Trust is reasonably quantifiable and material.

Grants and Contributions receivable.

Revenue grants are credited to the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:-

Motor Vehicle	- 25% Straight Line
Equipment	- 33.3% to 50% Straight Line

Small items of capital equipment which are project-based are written off as incurred.

Investment

The investment in Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited is stated at cost.

Debtors

Trade debtors and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts offered.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Creditors and provision

Creditors and provision are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discount due.

Financial instruments

Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Pension Costs

Contributions payable to the Trust's defined contribution pension schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations, grants and other income received or generated for the objects of the Charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the provider of the funds. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund, together with a fair allocation of support costs.

2. Critical estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

- Determination of whether there are indicators of impairment of the company's tangible fixed assets. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset.
- Determination of whether leases entered into by the company as lessee are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by lease basis.
- Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation, product life cycles and maintenance are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

3. Trustees

The Trustees do not receive any remuneration or expenses.

4. Incoming Resources

		2023 £		2022 £
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Farm Advice & Improvements	-	63,700	63,700	6,652
Fish Passage	-	339,427	339,427	929,561
School Education	-	19,838	19,838	8,500
Habitat Improvement	133,322	1,497,912	1,631,234	1,116,271
Public Engagement	-	75,594	75,594	3,530
Ecological Monitoring	-	<u>43,353</u>	<u>43,353</u>	-
	<u>133,322</u>	<u>2,039,824</u>	<u>2,173,146</u>	<u>2,064,514</u>

Of the total incoming funds in 2022 £1,932,190 was restricted.

5. Resources Expended

		2023 £		2022 £
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Summary by fund type				
Farm Advice & Improvements	-	123,601	123,601	118,408
Fish Passage	-	345,913	345,913	936,086
School Education	-	10,894	10,894	12,103
Habitat Improvement	83,154	1,616,470	1,699,624	981,527
Public Engagement	-	50,150	50,150	1,191
Ecological Monitoring	-	<u>17,270</u>	<u>17,270</u>	-
	<u>83,154</u>	<u>2,164,298</u>	<u>2,247,452</u>	<u>2,049,315</u>

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

5. Resources Expended (continued)

Summary by expenditure type

	2023			2022
	£	£	£	£
	Staff Costs	Depreciation	Other Costs	Total
Farm Advice & Improvements	83,217	-	40,384	123,601
Fish Passage	103,888	-	242,025	345,913
School Education	10,591	-	303	10,894
Habitat Improvement	564,350	8,083	1,127,191	1,699,624
Public Engagement	44,974	-	5,176	50,150
Ecological Monitoring	<u>11,694</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,576</u>	<u>17,270</u>
	<u>818,714</u>	<u>8,083</u>	<u>1,420,655</u>	<u>2,247,452</u>
2022 expenditure	<u>703,269</u>	<u>9,330</u>	<u>1,336,71</u>	<u>2,049,315</u>

Staff Costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	701,627	605,055
Social security costs	64,884	51,826
Pension costs	<u>52,203</u>	<u>46,388</u>
	<u>818,714</u>	<u>703,269</u>

The average number of staff employed by the Trust during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Engaged in Projects	25	24
Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>26</u>	<u>25</u>

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2023	2022
£60,000 - £69,999	-	1
£70,000 - £79,999	1	-

The key management personnel of the parent charity comprise the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Core Services, Head of People and Learning, Strategic Evidence and GIS Manager, Head of Land Management and Head of River Conservation. The total employee remuneration of the key management personnel was £306,022 (2022:£ 229,888).

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

5. Resources Expended (continued)

Other Costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Habitat Improvement Works	1,222,968	1,180,624
Motor & Travel Expenses	35,313	18,736
Newsletters	2,252	1,187
Telephone, Internet & Website	14,650	9,392
Subscriptions	2,000	1,975
Insurance	9,309	10,223
Office Supplies	11,118	7,930
Minor Equipment	12,752	15,699
Gift in kind – office accommodation	20,000	20,000
Advertising	19,236	17,599
Bank Charges	850	5,473
Miscellaneous Expenses	4,804	7,440
Accountancy	13,779	8,795
Governance costs	8,200	8,200
Legal and Professional	12,581	11,022
Training	<u>30,843</u>	<u>12,421</u>
	<u>1,420,655</u>	<u>1,336,716</u>

6. Net income/ (expenditure)

Net income/ (expenditure) is stated after:

	2023	2022
Auditor's Remuneration	8,200	8,200
Operating Lease expenditure	<u>1,791</u>	<u>797</u>

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

7. Tangible Fixed Assets	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost		
Brought forward	124,576	124,576
Additions	3,660	3,660
Disposals	-	-
At 31 January 2023	<u>128,236</u>	<u>128,236</u>
Depreciation		
Brought forward	110,123	110,123
Charge for the year	8,083	8,083
Disposals	-	-
At 31 January 2023	<u>118,206</u>	<u>118,026</u>
 Net Book Value at 31 January 2023	 10,030	 10,030
Net Book Value at 31 January 2022	<u>14,453</u>	<u>14,453</u>

8. Investment

Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited owns the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. The subsidiary company provides consultancy services.

A profit of £38,178 (2022 profit of £15,885) was generated in the year ended 31 January 2023 and a donation of £38,178 (2022 : £15,855) has been made to Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited. It is included in these accounts under Unrestricted Funds subscriptions and donations.

Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited has net assets of £100 representing issued share capital of £100, at 31 January 2023.

9. Debtors	2023 £	2022 £
Grants receivable	604,764	507,987
Amount owed by subsidiary company	69,054	83,311
Prepayments	<u>4,143</u>	<u>3,934</u>
	<u>677,961</u>	<u>595,232</u>
 10. Creditors falling due within one year	 2023 £	 2022 £
Trade Creditors	64,695	58,365
Accruals	14,103	14,324
Loans	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>78,798</u>	<u>72,689</u>

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

11. Creditors falling due after more than one year	2023	2021
	£	£
Unexpired Life Subscriptions	<u>500</u>	<u>550</u>
	<u>500</u>	<u>550</u>

12. Pension Costs

Defined Contribution Schemes

The Trust operates two defined contribution pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Trust in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Trust to the funds and amounted to £52,203 (2022: £46,388). Contributions of £NIL (2022: £877) were outstanding at the year end.

13. Statement of Funds

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfer Between Funds	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	<u>391,450</u>	<u>133,322</u>	<u>83,154</u>	<u>(12,631)</u>	<u>428,987</u>
Restricted Funds					
National Lottery Heritage Fund	168,967	30,903	123,417	-	76,453
Environment Agency	12,305	706,416	595,618	(2,279)	120,824
United Utilities	111,641	254,753	170,212	(7,061)	189,121
The Rivers Trust	31,729	2,312	4,869	-	29,172
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	211,184	278,622	426,737	6,670	69,739
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	(1,556)	35,416	38,098	-	(4,238)
Lancashire Woodland Connect	109,321	1,403	68,263	-	42,461
National Lottery Heritage Fund (Green Recovery Challenge Fund)	64,472	427,010	448,183	-	43,299
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (Funded by Natural England)	-	-	-	-	-
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund – Green Recovery Challenge Fund)	28,674	100,217	128,757	-	134
The Woodland Trust	-	86,120	80,679	19,251	24,692
BAE	-	9,324	-	-	9,324
Others	<u>65,803</u>	<u>107,328</u>	<u>79,465</u>	<u>(3,950)</u>	<u>89,716</u>
	<u>802,540</u>	<u>2,039,824</u>	<u>2,164,298</u>	<u>12,631</u>	<u>690,697</u>
Total Funds	<u>1,193,990</u>	<u>2,173,146</u>	<u>2,247,452</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,119,684</u>

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

Description of Restricted Funds

Within our projects that are delivered through provision of restricted funding by external Funders, we take a holistic approach to addressing the issues, as such the description below focuses on the significant activities delivered using the funds, however most funding will contribute to a range of activities.

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Supporting Ribble Life Together and HEAL projects and activities to deliver public engagement, school education, habitat improvements, fish passage and farm advice across the whole Ribble Catchment.

Environment Agency – Delivery of fish and eel passage projects, woodland creation, habitat improvements and farm advice across the Catchment, as well as a contribution for hosting the Ribble Catchment Partnership – Ribble Life. There is also funding for “Ribble Life for Water”, specifically funded by the Water Environment Grant programme, which has supported a programme of fish passage, river habitat improvement, peat restoration, and feasibility studies across the Ribble.

United Utilities – Delivering farm advice and improvements to farm infrastructure in the “Tidal Ribble” area of the Catchment to the west of Preston and support to the Wyre Rivers Trust in the “Tidal Wyre” area. Delivering farm advice and developing a capital works programme to improve water quality in the River Loud Catchment. As well as the “Catchment System Thinking” grant for “Valuing Ribble’s Water Woods” seeking to determine the economic value of woodland for water quality improvements, and opportunities for green finance to support woodland creation.

The Rivers Trust – delivering habitat improvements through woodland creation to provide multiple ecosystem services and benefits across the Ribble Catchment, and exploring Green Finance for woodland creation in the “Trees for Water” project.

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – Funding two projects, the first to support the “Primrose Blue and Greenway Project” in Clitheroe which through de-silting a redundant Mill Lodge, construction of a Fish Pass and a Footpath will create a public open space in the town of Clitheroe (as well as funding from Ribble Valley Borough Council). The second “Opening Up the River Douglas (OUR Douglas)” project involving 8 priority fish passage projects across the Douglas sub-catchment, as well as funding from Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme – Hosted by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty this is supporting the Pendle Woodland and Invasive Non-Native Species Project (Pendle WINNS) which focuses on the creation and management of new and existing woodland within the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership project. As well as management of Invasive Non-Native Species. The funding originates principally from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Lancashire Woodland Connect – a 10 year woodland creation campaign started in January 2020, which has sought financial support from a range of organisations and the public. This includes support from Pendle, Hyndburn, Rossendale, West Lancashire, Lancaster, and Ribble Valley councils.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Green Recovery Challenge Fund – Supporting the “Health and Environmental Action Lancashire (HEAL)” project, which is delivering woodland, wetland, access, volunteering and education activities across Lancashire. The Green Recovery Challenge Fund also includes funding from the Department for the Environment Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - supporting farm cooperation through facilitation as well as woodland creation and activities linked to the Facilitation Fund, Ribblesdale Farm Group.

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund supports the Deeper Connection project which is the next evolution of the Ribblesdale Farm Group, supporting a range of

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

habitat creation and restoration projects across the Long Preston Deepes (and surrounding area). The Green Recovery Challenge Fund also includes funding from the Department for the Environment Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The Woodland Trust – The Grow Back Greener funding, associated to the Northern Forest supporting woodland creation across the catchment.

Others – Ribble Valley Borough Council (INNS Control); A range of schools contributing to our education campaign; Whalley Village Hall a donation for woodland creation around Whalley; Skipton Properties a donation to woodland creation around Long Preston Deepes; Enforcement Undertakings for river restoration projects; Trees for Cities and the Forestry Commission for the Pennine Lancashire Treescapes project (PLanT); BAE Systems.

Transfers between funds

Transfers to Restricted Funds arise when costs on a project which is supported by an external funder exceed the funding received and the shortfall is made up by a transfer from Unrestricted Funds. Funding transfers from Restricted Funds arise when the agreed budget for an item of expenditure is overestimated and a surplus is therefore generated. With the assent of the funder, the balance is transferred to another fund as appropriate.

13. Analysis of Net Assets between restricted and unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
Tangible Fixed Assets	3,443	6,687	10,130	14,553
Current Assets	439,393	749,459	1,188,852	1,252,676
Current Liabilities	(13,349)	(65,449)	(78,798)	(72,689)
Creditors due after one year	(500)	-	(500)	(550)
	<u>428,987</u>	<u>690,697</u>	<u>1,119,684</u>	<u>1,193,990</u>

14. Operating lease commitments

As at 31 January 2023 the Trust had total future lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Total commitment	<u>5,913</u>	<u>7,704</u>

15. Related Party Transactions

During the year, the following transactions took place between the Trust and Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited, a company registered in England and Wales which is a wholly owned subsidiary:

The Trust recharged costs of £29,530 (2022: £28,540) to the subsidiary and the subsidiary company made a donation of £38,178 (2022: £15,885) to the Trust.

At 31 January 2023, there was an amount of £69,054 (2022: £83,311) included in debtors in respect of Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited.

During the year, unrestricted cash contributions received from Trustees and companies in which they have an interest amounted to £8,146.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1070672

Accounts

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022**

CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTERED NUMBER 1070672

COMPANY REGISTERED NUMBER 3498691

**PM+M SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
NEW CENTURY HOUSE
GREENBANK TECHNOLOGY PARK
CHALLENGE WAY
BLACKBURN
BB1 5QB**

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022**

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RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Charity Commission number 1070672

Company number 3498691

The Trust is established as a company limited by guarantee and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The affairs of the Trust are governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The liability of the members in the event of the Trust being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £10. The Trust operates under the name "Ribble Rivers Trust".

Trustees

Chairman
J P Lord

Secretary and Treasurer
A T Rowntree

Other Trustees

J E Alcock
J F Bleasdale
D W Bradley
J A Cowburn
M J Ellacott
C H Marchbank
J J B Rawkins
D J Wilmot
J L Yates

Key Management Personnel

J Spees	Chief Executive Officer
C Jaggs	Head of Core Services
H Hamilton Thorpe	Head of People and Learning
M Forty	Head of River Conservation

Registered Office

c/o Hanson Cement
Ribblesdale Works
Clitheroe
BB7 4QF

Principal Office

c/o Hanson Cement
Ribblesdale Works
Clitheroe
BB7 4QF

Advisers

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Drummond House
3, Redheughs Avenue
Edinburgh, EH12 9RH

Independent Auditors

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP
New Century House
Greenbank Technology Park
Challenge Way
Blackburn
BB1 5QB

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2022 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2016).

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity. It is enrolled with Entrust, the regulator of environmental bodies under the Landfill Tax regulations. It is also a member of the Rivers Trust and the Angling Trust. The Trust operates under the name "Ribble Rivers Trust".

Trustees are recruited by recommendation of existing Trustees and members. Induction and training is undertaken by existing trustees and staff.

The Trustees meet formally on a quarterly basis and liaise constantly between meetings amongst themselves and with the Trust's staff, particularly the Chief Executive Officer to whom day-to-day management of the Trust is delegated.

The Trustees review the major risks to which the Trust is exposed. Risk is assessed on an overall basis as well as on a project-by-project basis. The Trust maintains appropriate insurance cover including employer's liability, public liability, professional indemnity, and trustee liability. The cost of the trustee liability insurance for the year was £761.

Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Remuneration Committee agrees the pay and remuneration of key management personnel after considering the remuneration paid for similar posts.

Objectives and Activities

The aim of the Trust:

The aim of the Trust (set out in the Memorandum of Association of the Trust) is to secure the Conservation, Protection, Rehabilitation and improvement of rivers, streams, water courses, water impoundments, banksides, and tributaries, catchment areas and estuaries in particular of the Rivers Ribble, Calder and Hodder for the benefit of the public.

The Trust seeks to achieve this aim by using a holistic strategy that uses the process, of "Identify – Improve – Sustain" to address all issues affecting the catchment. In achieving this strategy the Trust has set the following objectives:

1. Undertake and support annual monitoring, investigation and research activities to identify and quantify issues and impacts that affect the Ribble Catchment.
2. Collate evidence from objective 1 to prioritise and deliver an annual restoration and improvement programme of activities across the catchment.
3. Wherever possible to influence and encourage partners delivering activities within the catchment to undertake actions in partnership to deliver improvements to the River Ribble and its tributaries.
4. To continuously engage and educate all communities, stakeholders and interest groups to address wider issues and ensure improvements are maximised and sustained.

Delivery of Objectives:

In delivery of the objectives Ribble Rivers Trust employs a team of dedicated, experienced and highly qualified staff. The skills and experience of the Trust reflect the holistic strategy, and the Trust is committed to continually developing the employees through external and internal training, and providing opportunities to work on different projects to provide broader involvement in the Trust's activities.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Volunteers:

The Trust relies upon the support of volunteers for a range of activities, including, tree planting, fencing, river clean ups, surveying and monitoring, education activities and administration and technical support (including website maintenance, and design work). The volunteers represent a significant component of the activity of the Trust, the value of the volunteer contribution ranges from £50 per day to £350 per day. During the year the Trust benefited from 2,175 hours put in by 583 volunteers with a value calculated at £18,588.

Public benefit:

The outcomes of the Trust's strategy and activities are vital to the continued conservation of the Ribble Catchment. The Trust provides a range of benefits to the public, commonly referred to as "Ecosystem Services", these include benefits such as the provision of high quality recreation areas and assets, reduction in flood risk, reductions in the risk of droughts, improvements to water quality (bringing benefit to biodiversity and bathing waters), and sustainable food production. The methodology employed in delivery of the objectives is to work with the communities and stakeholders who use and enjoy the catchment. This involves provision of opportunities to be directly involved, and also for the Trust to provide information on its work to its partners, funders and the public through reports, presentations, attendance at public events, newsletters, our website, and social media. Such partnership working helps to ensure that the Trust is delivering its core objectives effectively in the public interest, but also ensures and maximises wider direct and indirect socio-economic public benefits.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities, which is an annual process.

Achievements and Activities, including Plans for Future Periods

During the year to January 31st 2022 the Trust's activity focused around:

- Delivery of activities and works under the "Ribble Life Together" project, principally funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). This included education and engagement activity development, as well as the creation of woodlands, wetlands and fish passes. This commenced in April 2017 and has been extended until March 2022.
- Finalising the delivery of works through the Tidal Ribble Project, that sought to decrease faecal matter entering water courses, principally from agriculture, but also from domestic properties not connected to the main sewer network. This work has been focused in the Ribble Catchment to the West of the M6 motorway.
- Continuation of the works to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture in priority areas through our previously Natural England Facilitation Fund Farm Group in the Loud Catchment near Chipping, which is aiming to commence a catchment scale project with United Utilities in 2022. Additionally working in partnership with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust evolving the Farm Group in the Upper Ribble, the Ribblesdale Farm Group, looking at Habitat creation and restoration to support reduced Diffuse Pollution and improved Natural Flood Risk Management, through Deeper Connections.
- Ongoing monitoring of fish, invertebrates, and water chemistry and other species that indicate the health of the Ribble Catchment.
- Development and delivery of education activities across the catchment, including involving school children in delivery of improvement works, and learning to fish.
- Continuing the Lancashire Woodland Connect campaign, that builds on our riparian and catchment woodland programme, which started with Keeping Rivers Cool, Natural Course and other projects. Seeking to deliver a decade of woodland creation.
- Finalising of delivery of Clough Woodland at two new sites, and tackling Invasive Non-Native Species within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for their Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- Delivering a range of projects under the Ribble Life for Water Programme of projects. These projects include Peat Restoration, Weir Removals, In Channel Habitat, Fish Passage, Farm Advice and Feasibility studies.
- Completion of work on the Primrose Lodge Blue and Greenway project with support from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ribble Valley Borough Council with the installation of a fish pass and public access works undertaken.
- Completion of a Health and Environment prioritisation process and evidence to highlight areas where the improvement of the environment can contribute to the improved physical health of local communities. This was supported by Lancashire County Council and the EU Life Integrated Project "Natural Course".

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

- Completion of integrated Project Natural Course. It aims to commence a programme of activities with communities across the Lancashire area of the Ribble.
- Completion of a Fisheries Strategy and project programme for fish passage on the River Douglas sub-catchment with support from Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.
- Continuation of the Opening Up the River Douglas (OUR Douglas) programme involving 8 fish passage projects in the Douglas Catchment until 2023, supported by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities with support from Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.
- Continuing our work to prioritise our activities, using spatial data and evidence through Geographical Information Systems and models. Including Connecting Communities and Natural Capital – targeting physical improvements in the environment to support improved public health. The success of which has seen this work rolled out nationally.
- Commencement of the Health and Environmental Action Lancashire (HEAL) project, seeking to increase volunteer involvement in improving the environment and boosting physical health.
- Commencement of the Pennine Lancashire Treescapes project (PLanT), working with 5 Pennine Local Authorities to plant 40,000 trees across the Pennines in schools and public spaces.
- The Trust also applied for a number of grants to support projects starting in 2022, these include the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF), Catchment System Thinking Cooperative, Farm Advice, Engagement. These were multi year and focused on our strategic priorities.
- New project concepts are now being developed and aimed for funding bid submission in 2022.
- Producing the first full draft of the Trust's Strategy and Business Plan for 2022-2025, including development of processes, projects and programmes building on our priority work streams, this will be completed in 2022/23.

Ribble Life and Ribble Life Together

The Ribble Life partnership initiative aims to bring together all active organisations within the Ribble Catchment to help to deliver an improved river environment for people and wildlife. Following submission of our delivery phase grant the project has been awarded funding which has meant the commencement of a project that is the Trust's largest and most ambitious project to date, and will see ongoing delivery of catchment improvements up to the present time. 2020 was due to see this project completed, however the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic restricted delivery of key activities, and with support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we extended this project to 2021 initially and then March 2022. In the summer of 2021 we focused on celebrating our activities to date, further engagement and community involvement. The wider Ribble Life Partnership met and were kept up to date on projects and activities, as well as contributing to key consultations. However, development of future programmes was delayed, and will be revisited in 2022.

Future Plans

Focus on celebrating the work delivered so far, and engagement with communities to further help improve and enjoy the Ribble Catchment. We will also continue to work with the Ribble Life partnership to develop and deliver other catchment-improving projects and activities.

Tidal Ribble

The focus of this project has been to deliver on farm infrastructure activities that will reduce the quantity of faecal indicator organisms that flow into the Ribble Estuary and affect a number of the designated Bathing Waters off the Fylde Coast. Over 35 farms have been visited to date, and works have been completed on 23 farms. Additionally, there have been engagement and education activities that include litter picks, river in the classroom, a number of interpretation panels being installed, circular walks and art work have been delivered with the aim of reducing cross connections and "what not to flush". Completion was delayed owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

Future Plans

Complete the delivery engagement and education activities, as well as on-farm improvements and undertake monitoring and verification of works. This will include widening the area of activities to increase delivery of action resulting in reduced livestock access to water courses.

Diffuse pollution from Agriculture

Diffuse pollution from agriculture continues to have a significant negative affect on the Ribble Catchment, an estimate of 28% of the Ribble Catchments water bodies not in "good status" are identified as being as a result of

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

diffuse pollution from Agriculture. This complex and challenging problem requires large scale integration of activities to significantly reduce the inputs of diffuse pollution. The Trust has sought, and continues to seek, to expand the scale of delivery addressing diffuse pollution through increasing the awareness and knowledge of current and future environmental and land management professionals, and supporting and delivering on-farm interventions with farmers. This is being done in partnership with a number of organisations. Increased emphasis on targeted interventions in most beneficial locations has been made, and aligning and highlighting of the benefits of this work to a wider range of beneficiaries undertaken.

Future Plans

Given agriculture's significant impact on the catchment, and conversely a significant benefit to be derived through improvements working to address diffuse pollution from agriculture will remain a central focus of the Trust, with an increasing emphasis on soil and nutrient management, which provides both environmental and agricultural benefit. We hope to develop new and innovative work streams.

Natural Course

The Trust continued to deliver a programme of works under the heading Keeping Rivers Cool. The aim of which is to exclude livestock from riparian habitat and plant trees to create dappled shade to prepare and mitigate for the expected rises in water temperature forecasted to occur as a result of climate change. The development of this programme has seen delivery of multiple objectives through the benefits of riparian woodland, such as; increased habitat, decreased diffuse pollution (reducing livestock faeces entering water courses - aiding in improving bathing waters), and delivery of natural flood risk management through slowing overland run off. To aid in targeting this work, during 2018 the Trust commenced use of a previously developed tool to focus woodland creation where the greatest benefits could be derived from the creation of riparian woodland. Following this the Trust has worked towards the delivery of 37 woodlands totalling over 35 Hectares to be created. This programme received funding support from Natural Course, an EU Life Integrated Project, through the Rivers Trust, and was completed in 2021. It led to the establishment of the Lancashire Woodland Connect campaign. A fourth phase of Natural Course is soon to commence, looking at place based planning along the Fylde Coast.

Future Plans

Work with the "Fylde Hub" to establish a place based planning approach to develop and deliver more works to improve water Quality

Lancashire Woodland Connect

This 10 year campaign launched in 2020, built on the learnings of the first 3 phases of Natural Course, by delivering multiple benefits (such as improvements to water quality, providing habitat and shade to protect from expected climate change temperature increase, and not least provision of significant carbon sequestration) to multiple beneficiaries for different priorities, this campaign seeks to bring together partners and beneficiaries to increase the scales of woodland creation (particularly riparian and water focused) across the county. Thus far 6 local authorities, the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, private sector and the public have financially supported the campaign, with the campaign target for woodland creation on track (500,000 trees over 10 years). This has also led to the establishment of a partnership with the Woodland Trust through "Grow Back Greener" which will see further financial support for woodland creation to benefit water, as well as support from United Utilities and The Rivers Trust to explore the potential for Green Finance in supporting woodland creation.

Future Plans

To continue the campaign and associated delivery of Lancashire Woodland Connect, which has grown and developed such that there is now a programme of woodland creation up to 2 years in advance.

The River Darwen & BRILLIaNCE

The original 2018 BRILLIaNCE project has provided the opportunity to commence a programme of improvement projects in the River Darwen catchment. This has seen funding applied for, for fish easements at Holland Wood Weir (through Ribble Life for Water) and a feasibility study at Roach Bridge, which are now completed and development of further projects on Alum Brook, and plans to develop a pipeline of projects over the next 5 years.

Future Plans

We will also focus on planning and developing projects around weirs in the Darwen Catchment. With a particular focus on weir removal. This work will benefit from the significant improvement in the River Darwen's water quality.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Education

The education activities of "River in the Classroom" offer a wide range of activities for schools that can be done individually or in combination. This is seen as a fundamental area of activity for the trust, particularly expanding our coverage and the number of schools and pupils involved.

Future Plans

Continuation of the education programme, with increased emphasis on securing longer term sustainability to ensure that the successes delivered thus far can continue and be expanded.

Pennine Lancashire Treescapes Project (PLanT)

This project saw councils from across 5 districts in the Pennines come together with Ribble Rivers Trust to secure funding from the Forestry Commissions Treescapes programme, to deliver 40,000 trees in the winter of 21/22. Working with 40 schools Ribble Rivers Trust planted nearly 4000 trees in school grounds and delivered numerous engagement and education activities showing the link between, trees/woodlands, and rivers.

Future Plans

There are no immediate future plans for Treescapes, however we hope to build on the successful activities and relationships established to continue to deliver environment and education activities across the area.

Opening Up the River Douglas (OUR Douglas)

The OUR Douglas projects seeks to deliver 8 fish passage projects in priority locations across the Douglas, with funding from the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities, Groundwork Cheshire Lancashire and Merseyside, and the Environment Agency. Building on previous evidence and development work, this ambitious project is the first significant physical delivery project for the Trust in the Douglas catchment. There have been 3 completed to the end of January 2022, with 4 planned in 2022/23 and a 5th in 2023/24.

Future Plans

The Trust will complete the project plan, and then begin considering wider delivery across the Douglas working with the Catchment Partnership.

Angling Passport Scheme

The Angling Passport Scheme continues to be a success with significant numbers of anglers utilising the Trust's fishing, particularly at Mitton. Improvements to the access at Mitton are being sought to bolster the numbers of anglers utilising the entire beat.

Future Plans

The Angling Passport Scheme will continue to operate, and the Trust will seek to expand and increase the availability of fishing within the catchment. Exploration of "bookable" fishing on more exclusive parts of the river will be conducted, to identify if further opportunities to increase the availability of angling tourism can be achieved. We will continue to investigate "instant digital tickets" to allow anglers to buy tokens online and have instant access.

Monitoring

The Trust's delivery of its annual fisheries surveys continued and there was a continued significant decrease in salmon and trout fry. This data has continued to inform overall monitoring of the Trust's works, and also target future works. Particularly highlighting the need for significantly more work to reverse the downward trend. New ways to interpret and use our data were developed, allowing rapid identification of target areas, and easier assessment of causes of poor results when combined with other data.

Our Riverfly Volunteers continued to sample, and send in data to help with monitoring, and a volunteers' evening was held to provide feedback to the volunteers. We have now added to our invertebrate monitoring programme, or Citizen Science, through other monitoring such as otter, bat, barrier and habitat surveys. We have also continued our own in house monitoring for each of the above to build a clearer picture of the condition of the catchment.

Future Plans

Continuation of the Fish Surveys into the 15th year, expansion of monitoring into the Douglas, and to continue detailed assessment of the results, in relation to long term trends, but also reporting on the results of river.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

improvement projects carried out by the Trust. We will continue to expand the riverfly monitoring, and other initiatives, through the Catchment System Thinking Cooperative, with the results and feeding into the prioritisation strategy for the Trust. We will also expand our efforts and focus on Biodiversity indices as an indicator of river health, and in identifying key areas to focus on improvement work.

Ribble Life for Water

Originally a 2 year programme of 10 projects across the catchment, this has now expanded to 4 years and 14 projects. Each project delivers or develops key improvements relating to a number of issues such as diffuse pollution, fish passage, geomorphology (mitigating heavily modified water bodies) and peat restoration. This should lead to improved water quality, increased natural flood risk management, and more natural processes in our rivers, as well as increases in riverine wildlife. This programme involves working with partners including the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Pendle Borough Council and the Forest of Bowland AONB. Significant progress was made in 2021, with 400m of concrete channel lining removed from Pendle Water, further peat restoration on Pendle Hill, Flood Plain re-connection at Long Preston and completion of woody material addition at Gayle Beck,

Future Plans

There are a number of projects and activities to be completed by September 2022, one of which involves investigative studies to aid in developing more projects for future delivery under different programmes.

The Primrose Lodge Blue and Greenway project

This project began in late 2018, but work on the ground, commenced in July 2019, and was due for completion in November 2020. However flooding in 2020, combined with the coronavirus pandemic, caused significant delays. Works were largely completed by March 2021, and administratively completed by June 2021. The opening of the site was a huge success, and there has been significant positive community feedback.

Future Plans

Consider and develop further phases of work, in conjunction with Primrose Community Nature Trust. To further enhance the environment and access within the site.

Developing Strategic Data and Evidence

The Trust has continued to develop new tools and approaches to better strategic data and evidence, as well as better platforms to share and use this to develop new projects. As a core part of our operational activity data and evidence continues to grow in importance owing to refining of priorities to ensure maximum benefit is achieved. Given the increase, and expected increase, in our monitoring, management and interpretation of our data and evidence is key, and using this to influence the plans and activities of others is growing in importance.

Future Plans

There are a range of other tools and models that will support ongoing targeting, prioritisation and evidence of need for interventions across the catchment to support improved rivers. The trust will continue to develop these tools, and review and apply existing tools to support improved delivery. We will also identify key data needs to be incorporated into our monitoring work, as well as our engagement and educational activities.

Other Projects and Future Plans

The Trust has a number of small site specific projects currently being considered, and funding sought. These are largely aligned to the 7 main activity streams carried out by the Trust; Fish Passage, Farm Advice, Farm Land Habitat, Education & Engagement, Improving Access, Wetlands and Woodland Creation. This will include developing strategies for securing funding through traditional grants and partnership funding, but also developing funding opportunities through Natural Capital and Nature-based Solutions.

In 2022 we will finalise our Trust Strategy and Business Plan for the period 2022 – 2025 to set out our strategic programmes and projects and what we hope to see delivered over the next 3 years.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year, and subsequently, are as follows: -

J P Lord	Chairman
J E Alcock	
J F Bleasdale	
D W Bradley	
J A Cowburn	
M J Ellacott	
C H Marchbank	
J J B Rawkins	
A T Rowntree	
D J Wilmot	
J L Yates	

Financial Activities and Affairs

The financial statements show that for the year ended 31 January 2022 net incoming resources were £15,199. There were net incoming resources on Unrestricted Funds of £41,351 and net outgoing resources of £26,152 on Restricted Funds. The balance of the unrestricted funds at 31 January 2022 was £391,450 and the balance of the restricted funds at that date was £802,540.

Investments

The subsidiary company, Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited traded during the year, providing consultancy services. A profit of £15,885 was generated during the year.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to establish Unrestricted Funds of at least £450,000 in order to be in a position to fund individual projects to this or a greater value, particularly bearing in mind that much of the grant assistance receivable is paid following either part or full completion of such projects. Reserves also provide a fund which is available to deal with unforeseen events such as the need to reduce staff numbers if grant assistance should reduce.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited for the purposes 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to: -

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

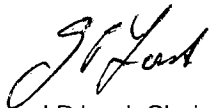
They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the trustees on 12-9-22 and signed on their behalf by



J P Lord, Chairman

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 January 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 January 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we have considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the Charity's remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and involving relevant specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: timing of recognition of commercial income, posting of unusual journals and complex transactions; and manipulating the Charity's performance profit measures and other key performance indicators to meet remuneration targets and externally communicated targets. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act, Charities Act, employment law, health and safety regulations, pensions legislation and tax legislation.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED**

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the identified risks of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

**Ceri Dixon BSc Hons ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PM+M Solutions for Business LLP**

23 September 2022

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

New Century House
Greenbank Technology Park
Challenge Way
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 5QB

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

	Notes	2022 £		2021 £	
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
					Total Funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies					
Subscriptions and Donations		78,451	10,389	37,919	3,677
Donation from Subsidiary company		15,885	-	-	-
Gift in kind – office accommodation		20,000	-	20,000	-
Charitable Activities					
Grants and Contributions receivable		-	1,921,801	-	1,883,181
Other Grant income		-	-	19,773	19,773
Other trading activities					
Angling Passport Tokens		5,034	-	4,867	4,867
Fee Income		12,864	-	3,520	3,520
Investments					
Bank Interest		90	-	618	618
Total Income	4	132,324	1,932,190	86,697	1,886,858
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	5	94,829	1,954,486	94,952	1,910,710
Net income/ (expenditure)		37,495	(22,296)	(8,255)	(23,852)
Transfer between funds					
Net Movement in Funds	13	3,856	(3,856)	28,383	(28,383)
		41,351	(26,152)	20,128	(52,235)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total Funds brought forward	13	350,099	828,692	329,971	880,927
Total Funds carried forward	13	391,450	802,540	350,099	828,692

All of the activities undertaken by the Trust were continuing activities. There were no gains or losses other than those reported in the Statement of Financial Activities. There are no endowment funds.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JANUARY 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	7	14,453	15,299
Investment	8	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
		<u>14,553</u>	<u>15,399</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	9	595,232	439,457
Cash at bank		<u>657,444</u>	<u>1,008,515</u>
		1,252,676	1,447,972
CREDITORS:			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>72,689</u>	<u>283,830</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,179,987	<u>1,164,142</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,194,540</u>	<u>1,179,541</u>
CREDITORS:			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	11	<u>550</u>	<u>750</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,193,990</u>	<u>1,178,791</u>
FUNDS	13		
Unrestricted Funds		391,450	350,099
Restricted Funds		<u>802,540</u>	<u>828,692</u>
		<u>1,193,990</u>	<u>1,178,791</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 12-9-22 and signed on their behalf by:

J P Lord

J P Lord, Director/Trustee

A T Rowntree

A T Rowntree, Director/Trustee

Company Number: 3498691

CASH FLOW STATEMENT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash generated in operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	15,199	(32,107)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	9,330	20,370
Interest received	(90)	(618)
Increase in debtors	(155,775)	(39,601)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	38,659	(31,338)
Net cash generated from operating activities	(92,677)	(83,294)
 Purchase of fixed assets	 (8,484)	 (13,350)
Loans repaid	(250,000)	-
Interest received	90	618
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(258,394)	(12,732)
 Cash flows from financing activities		
Loans introduced	-	250,000
Net cash used in financing activities	-	250,000
 (Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(351,071)	153,974
 Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,008,515	854,541
 Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	657,444	1,008,515
 Cash and cash equivalents		
Current accounts	13,279	21,980
Deposit accounts	644,165	986,535
	657,444	1,008,515

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

1. **Accounting Policies**

General Information

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Central Buildings, Richmond Terrace, Blackburn, BB1 7AP.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2016) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The financial statements do not include the results of the subsidiary company Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited on the grounds the results of the company are not material to the charity's financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going Concern

The trustees have considered the Trust's ability to remain a going concern. There are no material uncertainties in the ability of the Trust to continue and therefore the Trust continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from charitable activities, which includes income received under contract where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions, is recognised as earned as the related services are provided and it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of activities or provision of other specified services is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Donations are accounted for when received by the Trust. Other income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Life membership subscriptions are spread over five years.

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements and performance related grants are recognised as goods or services are supplied. Other payments are recognised when a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable.

Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the provision of training and include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities.

Gifts in Kind

The Trust receives the benefit of work carried out by volunteers and receives the use of facilities and equipment without charge. Donated services and facilities are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the Trust is reasonably quantifiable and material.

Grants and Contributions receivable.

Revenue grants are credited to the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:-

Motor Vehicle	- 25% Straight Line
Equipment	- 33.3% to 50% Straight Line

Small items of capital equipment which are project-based are written off as incurred.

Investment

The investment in Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited is stated at cost.

Debtors

Trade debtors and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts offered.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Creditors and provision

Creditors and provision are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discount due.

Financial instruments

Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Pension Costs

Contributions payable to the Trust's defined contribution pension schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations, grants and other income received or generated for the objects of the Charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the provider of the funds. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund, together with a fair allocation of support costs.

2. Critical estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

- Determination of whether there are indicators of impairment of the company's tangible fixed assets. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset.
- Determination of whether leases entered into by the company as lessee are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by lease basis.
- Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation, product life cycles and maintenance are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

3. Trustees

The Trustees do not receive any remuneration or expenses.

4. Incoming Resources

		2022 £		2021 £
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Farm Advice & Improvements	-	6,652	6,652	37,991
Fish Passage	-	929,561	929,561	495,262
School Education	-	8,500	8,500	4,350
Habitat Improvement	132,324	983,947	1,116,271	1,416,648
Public Engagement	-	<u>3,530</u>	<u>3,530</u>	<u>19,304</u>
	<u>132,324</u>	<u>1,932,190</u>	<u>2,064,514</u>	<u>1,973,555</u>

Of the total incoming funds in 2021 £1,886,858 was restricted.

5. Resources Expended

		2022 £		2021 £
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Summary by fund type				
Farm Advice & Improvements	-	118,408	118,408	174,604
Fish Passage	-	936,086	936,086	613,454
School Education	-	12,103	12,103	3,220
Habitat Improvement	94,829	886,698	981,527	1,204,372
Public Engagement	-	<u>1,191</u>	<u>1,191</u>	<u>10,012</u>
	<u>94,829</u>	<u>1,954,486</u>	<u>2,049,315</u>	<u>2,005,662</u>

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

5. Resources Expended (continued)

Summary by expenditure type

		2022			2021
		£			£
	Staff Costs	Depreciation	Other Costs	Total	Total
Farm Advice & Improvements	40,779	-	77,629	118,408	174,604
Fish Passage	109,806	-	826,280	936,086	613,454
School Education	12,083	-	20	12,103	3,220
Habitat Improvement	539,410	9,330	432,787	981,527	1,204,372
Public Engagement	<u>1,191</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,191</u>	<u>10,012</u>
	<u>703,269</u>	<u>9,330</u>	<u>1,336,716</u>	<u>2,049,315</u>	<u>2,005,662</u>
2021 expenditure	<u>583,937</u>	<u>20,370</u>	<u>1,401,355</u>	<u>2,005,662</u>	

Staff Costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	605,055	502,399
Social security costs	51,826	42,437
Pension costs	<u>46,388</u>	<u>39,101</u>
	<u>703,269</u>	<u>583,937</u>

The average number of staff employed by the Trust during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
Engaged in Projects	24	22
Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>

One employee earned between £60,000 and £69,999 (2021: one).

The key management personnel of the parent charity comprise the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Core Services, Head of People and Learning and Head of River Conservation. The total employee remuneration of the key management personnel was £229,888 (2021: £209,218).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

5. Resources Expended (continued)

Other Costs	2022 £	2021 £
Habitat Improvement Works	1,180,624	1,247,932
Motor & Travel Expenses	18,736	14,560
Newsletters	1,187	1,656
Telephone, Internet & Website	9,392	11,633
Subscriptions	1,975	3,537
Insurance	10,223	7,980
Office Supplies	7,930	9,903
Minor Equipment	15,699	6,225
Gift in kind – office accommodation	20,000	20,000
Advertising	17,599	7,950
Bank Charges	5,473	4,441
Miscellaneous Expenses	7,440	9,312
Accountancy	8,795	9,128
Governance costs	8,200	7,000
Legal and Professional	11,022	35,588
Training	<u>12,421</u>	<u>4,510</u>
	<u>1,336,716</u>	<u>1,401,355</u>

6. Net income/ (expenditure)

Net income/ (expenditure) is stated after:

	2022	2021
Auditor's Remuneration	8,200	7,000
Operating Lease expenditure	<u>797</u>	<u>1,123</u>

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

7. Tangible Fixed Assets	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost		
Brought forward	116,092	116,092
Additions	8,484	8,484
Disposals	-	-
At 31 January 2022	<u>124,576</u>	<u>124,576</u>
Depreciation		
Brought forward	100,793	100,793
Charge for the year	9,330	9,330
Disposals	-	-
At 31 January 2022	<u>110,123</u>	<u>110,123</u>
Net Book Value at 31 January 2022	<u>14,453</u>	<u>14,453</u>
Net Book Value at 31 January 2021	<u>15,299</u>	<u>15,299</u>

8. Investment

Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited owns the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. The subsidiary company provides consultancy services.

A profit of £15,885 (2021 loss of £570) was generated in the year ended 31 January 2022 and a donation of £15,855 (2021 : £nil) has been made to Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited. It is included in these accounts under Unrestricted Funds subscriptions and donations.

Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited has net assets of £100 representing issued share capital of £100, at 31 January 2022.

9. Debtors	2022 £	2021 £
Grants receivable	507,987	409,770
Amount owed by subsidiary company	83,311	27,437
Prepayments	<u>3,934</u>	<u>2,250</u>
	<u>595,232</u>	<u>439,457</u>

10. Creditors falling due within one year	2022 £	2021 £
Trade Creditors	58,365	23,883
Accruals	14,324	9,947
Loans	<u>-</u>	<u>250,000</u>
	<u>72,689</u>	<u>283,830</u>

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

11. Creditors falling due after more than one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Unexpired Life Subscriptions	<u>550</u>	<u>750</u>
	<u>550</u>	<u>750</u>

12. Pension Costs

Defined Contribution Schemes

The Trust operates two defined contribution pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Trust in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Trust to the funds and amounted to £46,388 (2021: £39,101). Contributions of £877 (2021: £670) were outstanding at the year end.

13. Statement of Funds

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfer Between Funds	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	<u>350,099</u>	<u>132,324</u>	<u>94,829</u>	<u>3,856</u>	<u>391,450</u>
Restricted Funds					
National Lottery Heritage Fund	230,412	243,139	336,462	31,878	168,967
Environment Agency	76,476	1,011,949	1,074,982	(1,138)	12,305
United Utilities	231,497	7,511	124,406	(2,961)	111,641
The Rivers Trust	22,500	600	(8,629)	-	31,729
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	112,179	285,340	186,335	-	211,184
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	15,125	17,383	32,694	(1,370)	(1,556)
Lancashire Woodland Connect	86,461	75,088	52,228	-	109,321
National Lottery Heritage Fund (Green Recovery Challenge Fund)	-	176,391	111,919	-	64,472
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (Funded by Natural England)	722	2,141	1,804	(1,059)	-
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund – Green Recovery Challenge Fund)	-	39,114	10,440	-	28,674
Others	<u>53,320</u>	<u>73,534</u>	<u>31,845</u>	<u>(29,206)</u>	<u>65,803</u>
	<u>828,692</u>	<u>1,932,190</u>	<u>1,954,486</u>	<u>(3,856)</u>	<u>826,540</u>
Total Funds	<u>1,178,791</u>	<u>2,064,514</u>	<u>2,049,315</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,193,990</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

Description of Restricted Funds

Within our projects that are delivered through provision of restricted funding by external Funders, we take a holistic approach to addressing the issues, as such the description below focuses on the significant activities delivered using the funds, however most funding will contribute to a range of activities.

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Supporting Ribble Life Together projects and activities to deliver public engagement, school education, habitat improvements, fish passage and farm advice across the whole Ribble Catchment.

Environment Agency – Delivery of fish and eel passage projects, woodland creation, habitat improvements and farm advice across the Catchment, as well as a contribution for hosting the Ribble Catchment Partnership – Ribble Life. There is also funding for “Ribble Life for Water”, specifically funded by the Water Environment Grant programme, which has supported a programme of fish passage, river habitat improvement, peat restoration, and feasibility studies across the Ribble.

United Utilities – Delivering farm advice and improvements to farm infrastructure in the “Tidal Ribble” area of the Catchment to the west of Preston and support to the Wyre Rivers Trust in the “Tidal Wyre” area. Delivering farm advice and developing a capital works programme to improve water quality in the River Loud Catchment. As well as the “Catchment System Thinking” grant for “Valuing Ribble’s Water Woods” seeking to determine the economic value of woodland for water quality improvements, and opportunities for green finance to support woodland creation.

The Rivers Trust – delivering habitat improvements through woodland creation to provide multiple ecosystem services and benefits across the Ribble Catchment, and exploring Green Finance for woodland creation in the “Trees for Water” project.

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – Funding two projects, the first to support the “Primrose Blue and Greenway Project” in Clitheroe which through de-silting a redundant Mill Lodge, construction of a Fish Pass and a Footpath will create a public open space in the town of Clitheroe (as well as funding from Ribble Valley Borough Council). The second “Opening Up the River Douglas (OUR Douglas)” project involving 8 priority fish passage projects across the Douglas sub-catchment, as well as funding from Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme – Hosted by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty this is supporting the Pendle Woodland and Invasive Non-Native Species Project (Pendle WINNS) which focuses on the creation and management of new and existing woodland within the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership project. As well as management of Invasive Non-Native Species. The funding originates principally from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Lancashire Woodland Connect – a 10 year woodland creation campaign started in January 2020, which has sought financial support from a range of organisations and the public. This includes support from Pendle, Hyndburn, Rossendale, West Lancashire, Lancaster, and Ribble Valley councils.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Green Recovery Challenge Fund – Supporting the “Health and Environmental Action Lancashire (HEAL)” project, which is delivering woodland, wetland, access, volunteering and education activities across Lancashire. The Green Recovery Challenge Fund also includes funding from the Department for the Environment Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - supporting farm cooperation through facilitation as well as woodland creation and activities linked to the Facilitation Fund, Ribblesdale Farm Group.

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust - Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund supports the Deeper Connection project which is the next evolution of the Ribblesdale Farm Group, supporting a range of habitat creation and restoration projects across the Long Preston Deepes (and surrounding area). The

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

Green Recovery Challenge Fund also includes funding from the Department for the Environment Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Others – Ribble Valley Borough Council (INNS Control); A range of schools contributing to our education campaign; Whalley Village Hall a donation for woodland creation around Whalley; Skipton Properties a donation to woodland creation around Long Preston Deeps; Enforcement Undertakings for river restoration projects; Trees for Cities and the Forestry Commission for the Pennine Lancashire Treescapes project (PLanT).

Transfers between funds

Transfers to Restricted Funds arise when costs on a project which is supported by an external funder exceed the funding received and the shortfall is made up by a transfer from Unrestricted Funds.

Funding transfers from Restricted Funds arise when the agreed budget for an item of expenditure is overestimated and a surplus is therefore generated. With the assent of the funder, the balance is transferred to another fund as appropriate.

13. Analysis of Net Assets between restricted and unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
Tangible Fixed Assets	8,184	6,369	14,553	15,399
Current Assets	405,027	847,649	1,252,676	1,447,972
Current Liabilities	(21,211)	(51,478)	(72,689)	(283,830)
Creditors due after one year	(550)	-	(550)	(750)
	<u>391,450</u>	<u>802,540</u>	<u>1,193,990</u>	<u>1,178,791</u>

14. Operating lease commitments

As at 31 January 2022 the Trust had total future lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Total commitment	<u>7,704</u>	<u>1,516</u>

15. Related Party Transactions

During the year, the following transactions took place between the Trust and Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited, a company registered in England and Wales which is a wholly owned subsidiary:

The Trust recharged costs of £28,540 (2021: £23,594) to the subsidiary and the subsidiary company made a donation of £15,885 (2021: £ nil) to the Trust.

At 31 January 2022, there was an amount of £83,311 (2021: £27,437) included in debtors in respect of Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1070672

Accounts

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021**

CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTERED NUMBER 1070672

COMPANY REGISTERED NUMBER 3498691

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021**

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RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Charity Commission number 1070672

Company number 3498691

The Trust is established as a company limited by guarantee and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The affairs of the Trust are governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The liability of the members in the event of the Trust being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £10. The Trust operates under the name "Ribble Rivers Trust".

Trustees

Chairman
J P Lord

Secretary and Treasurer
A T Rowntree

Other Trustees

J E Alcock
J F Bleasdale
D W Bradley
J A Cowburn
M J Ellacott
C H Marchbank
J J B Rawkins
D J Wilmot
J L Yates

Key Management Personnel

J Spees
C Jaggs
H Hamilton Thorpe
M Forty

Chief Executive Officer
Head of Core Services
Head of People and Learning
Head of River Conservation

Registered Office

c/o Hanson Cement
Ribblesdale Works
Clitheroe
BB7 4QF

Principal Office

c/o Hanson Cement
Ribblesdale Works
Clitheroe
BB7 4QF

Advisers

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
The Butts
Rochdale
OL16 1EY

Independent Auditors

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP
New Century House
Greenbank Technology Park
Challenge Way
Blackburn
BB1 5QB

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2021 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2016).

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity. It is enrolled with Entrust, the regulator of environmental bodies under the Landfill Tax regulations. It is also a member of the Rivers Trust and the Angling Trust.

Trustees are recruited by recommendation of existing Trustees and members. Induction and training is undertaken by existing trustees and staff.

The Trustees meet formally on a quarterly basis and liaise constantly between meetings amongst themselves and with the Trust's staff, particularly the Chief Executive Officer to whom day-to-day management of the Trust is delegated.

The Trustees review the major risks to which the Trust is exposed. Risk is assessed on an overall basis as well as on a project-by-project basis. The Trust maintains appropriate insurance cover including employer's liability, public liability, professional indemnity, and trustee liability. The cost of the trustee liability insurance for the year was £700.

Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Remuneration Committee agrees the pay and remuneration of key management personnel after considering the remuneration paid for similar posts.

Objectives and Activities

The aim of the Trust:

The aim of the Trust (set out in the Memorandum of Association of the Trust) is to secure the Conservation, Protection, Rehabilitation and improvement of rivers, streams, water courses, water impoundments, banksides, and tributaries, catchment areas and estuaries in particular of the Rivers Ribble, Calder and Hodder for the benefit of the public.

The Trust seeks to achieve this aim by using a holistic strategy that uses the process, of "Identify – Improve – Sustain" to address all issues affecting the catchment. In achieving this strategy the Trust has set the following objectives:

1. Undertake and support annual monitoring, investigation and research activities to identify and quantify issues and impacts that affect the Ribble Catchment.
2. Collate evidence from objective 1 to prioritise and deliver an annual restoration and improvement programme of activities across the catchment.
3. Wherever possible to influence and encourage partners delivering activities within the catchment to undertake actions in partnership to deliver improvements to the River Ribble and its tributaries.
4. To continuously engage and educate all communities, stakeholders and interest groups to address wider issues and ensure improvements are maximised and sustained.

Delivery of Objectives:

In delivery of the objectives Ribble Rivers Trust employs a team of dedicated, experienced and highly qualified staff. The skills and experience of the Trust reflect the holistic strategy, and the Trust is committed to continually developing the employees through external and internal training, and providing opportunities to work on different projects to provide broader involvement in the Trust's activities.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED TRUSTEES' REPORT

Volunteers:

The Trust relies upon the support of volunteers for a range of activities, including, tree planting, fencing, river clean ups, surveying and monitoring, education activities and administration and technical support (including website maintenance, and design work). The volunteers represent a significant component of the activity of the Trust, the value of the volunteer contribution ranges from £50 per day to £350 per day. During the year the Trust benefited from 1,624 hours of volunteer time with a value calculated at £10,827.

Public benefit:

The outcomes of the Trust's strategy and activities are vital to the continued conservation of the Ribble Catchment. The Trust provides a range of benefits to the public, commonly referred to as "Ecosystem Services", these include benefits such as the provision of high quality recreation areas and assets, reduction in flood risk, reductions in the risk of droughts, improvements to water quality (bringing benefit to biodiversity and bathing waters), and sustainable food production. The methodology employed in delivery of the objectives is to work with the communities and stakeholders who use and enjoy the catchment. This involves provision of opportunities to be directly involved, and also for the Trust to provide information on its work to its partners, funders and the public through reports, presentations, attendance at public events, newsletters, our website, and social media. Such partnership working helps to ensure that the Trust is delivering its core objectives effectively in the public interest, but also ensures and maximises wider direct and indirect socio-economic public benefits.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities, which is an annual process.

Achievements and Activities, Including Plans for Future Periods

During the year to January 31st 2021 the Trust's activity focused around:

- Delivery of activities and works under the "Ribble Life Together" project, principally funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This included education and engagement activity development, as well as the creation of woodlands, wetlands and fish passes. This commenced in April 2017 and has been extended until autumn 2021.
- Finalising the delivery of works through the Tidal Ribble Project, that sought to decrease faecal matter entering water courses, principally from agriculture, but also from domestic properties not connected to the main sewer network. This work has been focused in the Ribble Catchment to the West of the M6 motorway.
- Continuation of the works to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture in priority areas through our Natural England Facilitation Fund Farm Group in the Loud Catchment near Chipping, and in partnership with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust for a Farm Group in the Upper Ribble, Ribblesdale Farm Group, looking at Diffuse Pollution and Natural Flood Risk Management.
- Produce a plan for a programme of capital works to be delivered in the River Loud to reduce Phosphate concentrations, with support from United Utilities.
- Ongoing monitoring of fish, invertebrates, and water chemistry and other species that indicate the health of the Ribble Catchment.
- Development and delivery of education activities across the catchment, including involving school children in delivery of improvement works, and learning to fish.
- Launching the Lancashire Woodland Connect campaign, that builds on our riparian and catchment woodland programme, which started with Keeping Rivers Cool, Natural Course and other projects. Seeking to deliver a decade of woodland creation.
- Continuation of delivery of Clough Woodland at a new site, and tackling Invasive Non-Native Species within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for their Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme, and further sites developed for 2020/21.
- Delivering a range of projects under the Ribble Life for Water Programme of projects. These projects include Peat Restoration, Weir Removals, In Channel Habitat, Fish Passage, Farm Advice and Feasibility studies.
- Continuation of work on the Primrose Lodge Blue and Greenway project with support from the Ministry for Communities Housing and Local Government and Ribble Valley Borough Council with the installation of a fish pass and public access works undertaken.
- Development of a Health and Environment prioritisation process and evidence to highlight areas where the environment and specifically improvement of the environment can contribute to the improved physical health of local communities. This was supported by Lancashire County Council and the EU Life

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

- Integrated Project Natural Course. It aims to commence a programme of activities with communities in 2020/21 across the Lancashire area of the Ribble.
- Completion of a Fisheries Strategy and project programme for fish passage on the River Douglas sub-catchment, with an outline application for funding made to the Ministry for Communities Housing and Local Government with support from Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.
- Commencement of the Opening Up the River Douglas (Our Douglas) programme involving 8 fish passage projects in the Douglas Catchment until 2023.
- Continuing our work to prioritise our activities, using spatial data and evidence through Geographical Information Systems and models. Including Connecting Communities and Natural Capital – targeting physical improvements in the environment to support improved public health. The success of which has seen this work rolled out nationally.
- The Trust also applied for a number of grants (that were announced as part of the government's strategy to support a green recovery from the Coronavirus Pandemic, as well as previously planned funding opportunities) to support projects developed during 2019 and 2020. These were multi year and focused on our strategic priorities.
- Working on the Trust's Strategy and Business Plan for 2021-2025, including development of projects and programmes building on our priority work streams.

Ribble Life and Ribble Life Together

The Ribble Life partnership initiative aims to bring together all active organisations within the Ribble Catchment to help to deliver an improved river environment for people and wildlife. Following submission of our delivery phase grant the project has been awarded funding which has meant the commencement of a project that is the Trust's largest and most ambitious project to date, and will see ongoing delivery of catchment improvements up to the present time. 2020 was due to see this project completed, however the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic restricted delivery of key activities, and with support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we extended this project to 2021. In the summer of 2021 we will be focused on the celebrating of our activities to date, further engagement and community involvement. The wider Ribble Life Partnership met and were kept up to date on projects and activities, as well as contributing to key consultations. However, development of future programmes was delayed.

Future Plans

Focus on celebrating the work delivered so far, and engagement with communities to further help improve and enjoy the Ribble Catchment. We will also continue to work with the Ribble Life partnership to develop and deliver other catchment-improving projects and activities.

Tidal Ribble

The focus of this project has been to deliver on farm infrastructure activities that will reduce the quantity of faecal indicator organisms that flow into the Ribble Estuary and affect a number of the designated Bathing Waters off the Fylde Coast. Over 35 farms have been visited to date, and works have commenced on 23 farms. Additionally, there have been engagement and education activities that include litter picks, river in the classroom, a number of interpretation panels being installed, circular walks and art work have been delivered with the aim of reducing cross connections and "what not to flush". Completion was delayed owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

Future Plans

Complete the delivery engagement and education activities, as well as on-farm improvements and undertake monitoring and verification of works. This will include widening the area of activities to increase delivery of action resulting in reduced livestock access to water courses.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Diffuse pollution from Agriculture

Diffuse pollution from agriculture continues to have a significant negative affect on the Ribble Catchment, an estimate of 28% of the Ribble Catchments waterbodies not in "good status" are identified as being as a result of diffuse pollution from Agriculture. This complex and challenging problem requires large scale integration of activities to significantly reduce the inputs of diffuse pollution. The Trust has sought, and continues to seek, to expand the scale of delivery addressing diffuse pollution through increasing the awareness and knowledge of current and future environmental and land management professionals, and supporting and delivering on-farm interventions with farmers. This is being done in partnership with a number of organisations. Increased emphasis on targeted interventions in most beneficial locations has been made, and aligning and highlighting of the benefits of this work to a wider range of beneficiaries undertaken.

Future Plans

Given agriculture's significant impact on the catchment, and conversely a significant benefit to be derived through improvements working to address diffuse pollution from agriculture will remain a central focus of the Trust, with an increasing emphasis on soil and nutrient management, which provides both environmental and agricultural benefit. We hope to develop new and innovative work streams.

Natural Course

The Trust continued to deliver a programme of works under the heading Keeping Rivers Cool. The aim of which is to exclude livestock from riparian habitat and plant trees to create dappled shade to prepare and mitigate for the expected rises in water temperature forecasted to occur as a result of climate change. The development of this programme has seen delivery of multiple objectives through the benefits of riparian woodland, such as; increased habitat, decreased diffuse pollution (reducing livestock faeces entering water courses - aiding in improving bathing waters), and delivery of natural flood risk management through slowing overland run off. To aid in targeting this work, during 2018 the Trust commenced use of a previously developed tool to focus woodland creation where the greatest benefits could be derived from the creation of riparian woodland. Following this the Trust has worked towards the delivery of 37 woodlands totalling over 35 Hectares to be created. This programme currently receives funding support from Natural Course, an EU Life Integrated Project, through the Rivers Trust, and this element of the project is due to be completed in 21/22.

Future Plans

The project due to be completed in 20/21 has had to delay delivery of a number of sites until 21/22. It is hoped through Lancashire Woodland Connect that a further 10 years of woodland creation will occur, across the catchment.

The River Darwen & BRILLIANCE

The original 2018 BRILLIANCE project has provided the opportunity to commence a programme of improvement projects in the River Darwen catchment. This has seen funding applied for, for fish easements at Holland Wood Weir (through Ribble Life for Water) and a feasibility study at Roach Bridge, and development of further projects on Alum Brook, and plans to develop a pipeline of projects over the next 5 years.

Future Plans

We will also focus on planning and developing projects around weirs in the Darwen Catchment. With a particular focus on weir removal. This work will benefit from the significant improvement in the River Darwen's water quality.

Education

The education activities of "River in the Classroom" offer a wide range of activities for schools that can be done individually or in combination. This is seen as a fundamental area of activity for the trust, particularly expanding our coverage and the number of schools and pupils involved.

Future Plans

Continuation of the education programme, with increased emphasis on securing longer term sustainability to ensure that the successes delivered thus far can continue and be expanded.

Angling Passport Scheme

The Angling Passport Scheme continues to be a success with significant numbers of anglers utilising the Trust's fishing, particularly at Mitton. Improvements to the access at Mitton are being sought to bolster the numbers of anglers utilising the entire beat.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Future Plans

The Angling Passport Scheme will continue to operate, and the Trust will seek to expand and increase the availability of fishing within the catchment. Exploration of "bookable" fishing on more exclusive parts of the river will be conducted, to identify if further opportunities to increase the availability of angling tourism can be achieved. We will continue to investigate "instant digital tickets" to allow anglers to buy tokens online and have instant access.

Monitoring

The Trust's delivery of its annual fisheries surveys continued and there was a continued significant decrease in salmon and trout fry. This data has continued to inform overall monitoring of the Trust's works, and also target future works. Particularly highlighting the need for significantly more work to reverse the downward trend. New ways to interpret and use our data were developed, allowing rapid identification of target areas, and easier assessment of causes of poor results when combined with other data.

Our Riverfly Volunteers continued to sample, and send in data to help with monitoring, and a volunteers' evening was held to provide feedback to the volunteers. We have now added to our invertebrate monitoring programme through targeted invertebrate sampling, which seeks to apply more detailed sampling and analysis programme. This compliments the work by volunteers.

Future Plans

Continuation of the Fish Surveys into the 14th year, expansion of monitoring into the Douglas, and to continue detailed assessment of the results, in relation to long term trends, but also reporting on the results of river improvement projects carried out by the Trust. We will continue and seek where possible to expand the riverfly monitoring, and other initiatives, with the results and feeding into the prioritisation strategy for the Trust. We will also expand our efforts and focus on Biodiversity indices as an indicator of river health, and in identifying key areas to focus on improvement work.

Ribble Life for Water

This is a 2 year programme of 10 projects across the catchment, each project delivers key improvements relating to a number of issues such as diffuse pollution, fish passage, geomorphology (mitigating heavily modified water bodies) and peat restoration. This should lead to improved water quality, increased natural flood risk management, and more naturally function rivers, as well as increases in riverine wildlife. This programme involves working with partners including the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, Pendle Borough Council and the Forest of Bowland AONB. Significant progress was made in 2020, hampered by weather in the late winter/early spring of 2020 and the Coronavirus pandemic, this project has been extended to March 2022.

Future Plans

The largest pieces of work at Lomeshay and Long Preston will be completed in 2021, with other activities continued ahead of completion in 2022.

The Primrose Lodge Blue and Greenway project

This project began in late 2018, but work on the ground, commenced in July 2019, and was due for completion in November 2020. However flooding in 2020, combined with the coronavirus pandemic, caused significant delays. It is hoped that works will be complete by September 2021. The works in 2020 included installing of the fish pass, and creation of public access through the site.

Future Plans

2021 will see work to complete the fish pass, and a public footpath through the site. We will also work with the site owners to determine if further works to add more value to the site are feasible and consider a plan for delivery.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Lancashire Woodland Connect

After a decade of increasing delivery of riparian woodland and woodland corridors to improve our Rivers and Streams, the Trust commenced in the first weeks of January 2020, a 10 year campaign to create 500 Hectares of new woodland, along 100 miles of river and stream. This will improve water quality, provide habitat and give shade to protect from expected climate change temperature increases. It will also provide significant sequestration of carbon. This campaign aims to bring together a range of funders and initiatives to invest into the campaign, and support the Trust, communities and volunteers to deliver the aim of 500 Hectares of new woodland. Significant support was received from a range of supporters (including Local Authorities, the Public, EA and Corporate supporters), prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, it was expected that the annual target for 20/21 would be exceeded, unfortunately the pandemic caused delays meant that there was a reduced level of delivery. However with our partners we achieved just short of our campaign target, and undelivered sites have been delayed until 2021/22. Work with partners also saw the development of future partnerships to maintain and increase the levels of delivery in the campaign.

Future Plans

To continue the creation of woodland, but increasing scale of delivery and capacity to support delivery is the principal focus for the future. This will be achieved through securing funding to develop a pipeline and portfolio of woodland creation sites, that we can work on with partners and funders to establish over the coming years.

Developing Strategic Data and Evidence

The Trust has had a focus on developing our data and evidence to aid in targeting of work to ensure maximum benefit is achieved. During 2020, this saw the development of our Connecting Communities and Natural Capital data set – which shows priority locations where improvement in the environment will provide benefit to the physical health of local communities. Combined with our other environmental benefit data sets, this provides significant additional evidence on the importance and need to improve the environment for people and wildlife. In addition to this the Trust continued to develop other data and evidence, as well as methods of interpretation to support delivery. This has led to the need to have a dedicated team within the Trust focusing on this area of work. This was commended in late 2020 with the appointment of a GIS and projects intern through the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership led by the Forest of Bowland.

Future Plans

There are a range of other tools and models that will support ongoing targeting, prioritisation and evidence of need for interventions across the catchment to support improved rivers. The trust will continue to develop these tools, and review and apply existing tools to support improved delivery. We will also identify key data needs to be incorporated into our monitoring work, as well as our engagement and educational activities.

Other Projects and Future Plans

The Trust has a number of small site specific projects currently being considered, and funding sought. These are largely aligned to the 7 main activity streams carried out by the Trust; Fish Passage, Farm Advice, Farm Land Habitat, Education & Engagement, Improving Access, Wetlands and Woodland Creation. This will include developing strategies for securing funding through traditional grants and partnership funding, but also developing funding opportunities through Natural Capital and Nature-based Solutions.

In 2021 we will finalise our Trust Strategy and Business Plan for the period 2021 – 2025 to set out our strategic programmes and projects and what we hope to see delivered over the next 4 years.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year, and subsequently, are as follows: -

J P Lord	Chairman
J E Alcock (appointed 21 September 2020)	
J F Bleasdale	
D W Bradley	
J A Cowburn	
M J Ellacott	
Dr M W Horner (retired 22 June 2020)	
C H Marchbank	
J J B Rawkins	
A T Rowntree	
D J Wilmot	
J L Yates (appointed 22 June 2020)	

Financial Activities and Affairs

The financial statements show that for the year ended 31 January 2021 net outgoing resources were £32,107. There were net incoming resources on Unrestricted Funds of £20,128 and net outgoing resources of £52,235 on Restricted Funds. The balance of the unrestricted funds at 31 January 2021 was £350,099 and the balance of the restricted funds at that date was £828,692.

Investments

The subsidiary company, Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited traded during the year, providing consultancy services. A loss of £570 was generated during the year.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to establish Unrestricted Funds of at least £300,000 in order to be in a position to fund individual projects to this or a greater value, particularly bearing in mind that most grant assistance receivable is paid following either part or full completion of such projects. The trustees are able to report that this target has been met at the year end.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited for the purposes 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to: -

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the trustees on 13 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by



J P Lord, Chairman

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Benefit Mankind Ltd (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 January 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to Irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we have considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the design of the Charity's remuneration policies, key drivers for directors' remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and involving relevant specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: timing of recognition of commercial income, posting of unusual journals and complex transactions; and manipulating the Charity's performance profit measures and other key performance indicators to meet remuneration targets and externally communicated targets. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act, Charities Act, employment law, health and safety regulations, pensions legislation and tax legislation.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the identified risks of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the

Audit response to risks identified

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

Helen Clayton BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

14 October 2021

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

New Century House
Greenbank Technology Park
Challenge Way
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 5QB

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

	Notes	2021 £		2020 £	
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
					Total Funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies					
Subscriptions and Donations		37,919	3,677	37,850	3,930
Donation from Subsidiary company		-	-	12,642	-
Gift in kind – office accommodation		20,000	-	20,000	-
Charitable Activities					
Grants and Contributions receivable		-	1,883,181	-	1,559,394
Other Grant Income		19,773	-	-	-
Other trading activities					
Angling Passport Tokens		4,867	-	5,319	-
Fee Income		3,520	-	2,513	-
Investments					
Bank Interest		618	-	1,509	-
Total Income	4	<u>86,697</u>	<u>1,886,858</u>	<u>79,833</u>	<u>1,563,324</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities					
	5	<u>94,952</u>	<u>1,910,710</u>	<u>51,779</u>	<u>1,383,951</u>
Net Income/ (expenditure)		(8,255)	(23,852)	28,054	207,427
Transfer between funds					
Net Movement In Funds	13	<u>28,383</u>	<u>(28,383)</u>	<u>955</u>	<u>(955)</u>
		20,128	(52,235)	29,009	178,418
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total Funds brought forward	13	<u>329,971</u>	<u>880,927</u>	<u>300,962</u>	<u>702,509</u>
Total Funds carried forward	13	<u>350,099</u>	<u>828,692</u>	<u>329,971</u>	<u>880,927</u>

All of the activities undertaken by the Trust were continuing activities. There were no gains or losses other than those reported in the Statement of Financial Activities. There are no endowment funds.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JANUARY 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	7	15,299	22,319
Investment	8	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
		<u>15,399</u>	<u>22,419</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	9	439,457	399,856
Cash at bank		<u>1,008,515</u> <u>1,447,972</u>	<u>854,541</u> <u>1,254,397</u>
CREDITORS:			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>283,830</u>	<u>64,868</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,164,142</u>	<u>1,189,529</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,179,541</u>	<u>1,211,948</u>
CREDITORS:			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	11	<u>750</u>	<u>1,050</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,178,791</u>	<u>1,210,898</u>
FUNDS	13		
Unrestricted Funds		350,099	329,971
Restricted Funds		<u>828,692</u>	<u>880,927</u>
		<u>1,178,791</u>	<u>1,210,898</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 13 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:


J P Lord, Director/Trustee


A T Rowntree, Director/Trustee

Company Number: 3498691

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

CASH FLOW STATEMENT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash generated in operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	(32,107)	207,427
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	20,370	22,473
Interest received	(618)	(1,509)
Increase in debtors	(39,601)	(80,481)
Decrease in creditors	(31,338)	(59,151)
Net cash generated from operating activities	(83,294)	88,759
 Purchase of fixed assets	 (13,350)	 (5,620)
Interest received	618	1,509
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(12,732)	(4,111)
 Cash flows from financing activities		
Loans introduced	250,000	-
Net cash used in financing activities	250,000	-
 Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	153,974	84,648
 Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	854,541	769,893
 Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,008,515	854,541
 Cash and cash equivalents		
Current accounts	21,980	26,410
Deposit accounts	986,535	828,131
	1,008,515	854,541

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

1. Accounting Policies

General Information

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Central Buildings, Richmond Terrace, Blackburn, BB1 7AP.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2016) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The financial statements do not include the results of the subsidiary company Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited on the grounds the results of the company are not material to the charity's financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going Concern

The trustees have considered the Trust's ability to remain a going concern. There are no material uncertainties in the ability of the Trust to continue and therefore the Trust continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from charitable activities, which includes income received under contract where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions, is recognised as earned as the related services are provided and it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of activities or provision of other specified services is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Donations are accounted for when received by the Trust. Other income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Life membership subscriptions are spread over five years.

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements and performance related grants are recognised as goods or services are supplied. Other payments are recognised when a constructive obligation arises that results in the payment being unavoidable.

Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the provision of training and include both the direct and support costs relating to these activities.

Gifts in Kind

The Trust receives the benefit of work carried out by volunteers and receives the use of facilities and equipment without charge. Donated services and facilities are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the Trust is reasonably quantifiable and material.

Grants and Contributions receivable.

Revenue grants are credited to the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:-

Motor Vehicle	- 25% Straight Line
Equipment	- 33.3% to 50% Straight Line

Small items of capital equipment which are project-based are written off as incurred.

Investment

The investment in Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited is stated at cost.

Debtors

Trade debtors and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts offered.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Creditors and provision

Creditors and provision are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discount due.

Financial instruments

Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Pension Costs

Contributions payable to the Trust's defined contribution pension schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations, grants and other income received or generated for the objects of the Charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the provider of the funds. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund, together with a fair allocation of support costs.

2. Critical estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

- Determination of whether there are indicators of impairment of the company's tangible fixed assets. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset.
- Determination of whether leases entered into by the company as lessee are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by lease basis.
- Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation, product life cycles and maintenance are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

3. Trustees

The Trustees do not receive any remuneration or expenses.

4. Incoming Resources

		2021		2020
		£		£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Farm Advice & Improvements	-	37,991	37,991	133,910
Fish Passage	-	495,262	495,262	649,524
School Education	-	4,350	4,350	5,430
Habitat Improvement	86,697	1,329,951	1,416,648	840,293
Ecological Monitoring	-	-	-	-
Public Engagement	-	<u>19,304</u>	<u>19,304</u>	<u>14,000</u>
	<u>86,697</u>	<u>1,886,858</u>	<u>1,973,555</u>	<u>1,643,157</u>

5. Resources Expended

		2021		2020
		£		£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Summary by fund type				
Farm Advice & Improvements	-	174,604	174,604	201,550
Fish Passage	-	613,454	613,454	449,508
School Education	-	3,220	3,220	6,071
Habitat Improvement	94,952	1,109,420	1,204,372	753,930
Ecological Monitoring	-	-	-	60
Public Engagement	-	<u>10,012</u>	<u>10,012</u>	<u>24,611</u>
	<u>94,952</u>	<u>1,910,710</u>	<u>2,005,662</u>	<u>1,435,730</u>

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

5. Resources Expended (continued)

Summary by expenditure type

	2021			2020	
	Staff Costs	Depreciation	£ Other Costs	Total	£ Total
Farm Advice & Improvements	76,688	-	97,916	174,604	201,549
Fish Passage	52,040	-	561,414	613,454	449,508
School Education	3,083	-	137	3,220	6,071
Habitat Improvement	443,200	20,370	740,802	1,204,372	753,932
Ecological Monitoring	-	-	-	-	60
Public Engagement	<u>8,926</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,086</u>	<u>10,012</u>	<u>24,610</u>
	<u>583,937</u>	<u>20,370</u>	<u>1,401,355</u>	<u>2,005,662</u>	<u>1,435,730</u>
2020 expenditure	<u>533,600</u>	<u>22,473</u>	<u>879,657</u>	<u>1,435,730</u>	

Staff Costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	502,399	466,635
Social security costs	42,437	35,181
Pension costs	<u>39,101</u>	<u>31,784</u>
	<u>583,937</u>	<u>533,600</u>

The average number of staff employed by the Trust during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Engaged in Projects	22	20
Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>23</u>	<u>21</u>

One employee earned between £60,000 and £69,999 (2020: one).

The key management personnel of the parent charity comprise the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Core Services, Head of People and Learning and Head of River Conservation. The total employee remuneration of the key management personnel was £209,218 (2020:£188,060).

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

5. Resources Expended (continued)

Other Costs	2021 £	2020 £
Habitat Improvement Works	1,247,932	748,754
Motor & Travel Expenses	14,560	31,094
Newsletters	1,656	1,544
Telephone, Internet & Website	11,633	10,917
Subscriptions	3,537	3,673
Insurance	7,980	8,473
Office Supplies	9,903	8,870
Minor Equipment	6,225	8,390
Gift in kind – office accommodation	20,000	20,000
Advertising	7,950	3,944
Bank Charges	4,441	546
Miscellaneous Expenses	9,312	1,535
Accountancy	9,128	5,017
Governance costs	7,000	5,240
Legal and Professional	35,588	7,827
Training	<u>4,510</u>	<u>13,833</u>
	<u>1,401,355</u>	<u>879,657</u>

6. Net Income/ (expenditure)

Net income/ (expenditure) is stated after:

	2021	2020
Auditor's Remuneration	7,000	5,240
Operating Lease expenditure	<u>1,123</u>	<u>326</u>

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

7. Tangible Fixed Assets	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost		
Brought forward	102,742	102,742
Additions	13,350	13,350
Disposals	-	-
At 31 January 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>116,092</u>	<u>116,092</u>
Depreciation		
Brought forward	80,423	80,423
Charge for the year	20,370	20,370
Disposals	-	-
At 31 January 2021	<u>100,793</u>	<u>100,793</u>
Net Book Value at 31 January 2021	<u>15,299</u>	<u>15,299</u>
Net Book Value at 31 January 2020	<u>22,319</u>	<u>22,319</u>

8. Investment

Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited owns the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. The subsidiary company provides consultancy services.

A loss of £570 (2020 profit of £12,642) was generated in the year ended 31 January 2021 and so no donation in the year (2020 - £12,642) has been made to Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited . In the prior year, it is included in these accounts under Unrestricted Funds subscriptions and donations.

Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited has net liabilities of £470 representing issued share capital of £100 , at 31 January 2021 and a negative profit and loss reserve of £570, which is expected to reverse in the forthcoming year. For this reason, the investment has not been impaired.

9. Debtors	2021 £	2020 £
Grants receivable	409,770	389,020
Amount owed by subsidiary company	27,437	10,836
Prepayments	<u>2,250</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>439,457</u>	<u>399,856</u>
10. Creditors falling due within one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade Creditors	23,883	46,083
Accruals	9,947	18,785
Loans	<u>250,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>283,830</u>	<u>64,868</u>

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

11. Creditors falling due after more than one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Unexpired Life Subscriptions	<u>750</u>	<u>1,050</u>
	<u>750</u>	<u>1,050</u>

12. Pension Costs

Defined Contribution Schemes

The Trust operates two defined contribution pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Trust in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Trust to the funds and amounted to £39,101 (2020:£31,784). Contributions of £ 670 (2020: £937) were outstanding at the year end.

13. Statement of Funds

	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfer Between Funds	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	<u>329,971</u>	<u>86,697</u>	<u>94,952</u>	<u>28,383</u>	<u>350,099</u>
Restricted Funds					
Heritage Lottery Fund	242,894	247,244	259,726	-	230,412
Environment Agency	(10,882)	716,795	625,387	(4,050)	76,476
United Utilities	384,027	13,119	152,638	(13,011)	231,497
Natural England	(2,245)	13,837	12,532	940	-
The Rivers Trust	81,436	62,107	121,043	-	22,500
Ministry for Housing, Communities And Local Government	(45,451)	607,902	440,253	(10,019)	112,179
Ribble Valley Borough Council	144,764	110,561	221,583	-	33,742
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	7,177	44,062	36,114	-	15,125
Other	<u>79,207</u>	<u>71,231</u>	<u>41,434</u>	<u>(2,243)</u>	<u>106,761</u>
	<u>880,927</u>	<u>1,886,858</u>	<u>1,910,710</u>	<u>(28,383)</u>	<u>828,692</u>
 Total Funds	 <u>1,210,898</u>	 <u>1,973,555</u>	 <u>2,005,662</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>1,178,791</u>

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

Description of Restricted Funds

Within our projects that are delivered through provision of restricted funding by external Funders, we take a holistic approach to addressing the issues, as such the description below focuses on the significant activities delivered using the funds, however most funding will contribute to a range of activities.

Heritage Lottery Funds – Supporting projects and activities to deliver public engagement, school education, habitat improvements, fish passage and farm advice across the whole Ribble Catchment.

Environment Agency – Delivery of fish passage projects, habitat improvements and farm advice across the Catchment, as well as a contribution for hosting the Ribble Catchment Partnership – Ribble Life.

United Utilities – Delivering farm advice and improvements to farm infrastructure in the “Tidal Ribble” area of the Catchment to the west of Preston and support to the Wyre Rivers Trust in the “Tidal Wyre” area. Delivering farm advice and developing a capital works programme to improve water quality in the River Loud Catchment.

Natural England – Providing farm training and advice, and facilitating farm groups to develop solutions to water quality and habitat improvement issues.

The Rivers Trust – delivering habitat improvements through woodland creation to provide multiple ecosystem services and benefits across the Ribble Catchment.

Marine Management Organisation – Through the European Marine Fisheries Fund contributing towards fish passage projects on four key tributaries of the Ribble.

Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government – Funding to support the project “Blackburn’s Rivers Important to Lancashire’s Landscape and Natural Capital Economy (BRILLIANCE)”, involving fish passage and creating a new close-to-nature river channel to replace a culvert. As well as funding with Ribble Valley Borough Council for the “Primrose Blue and Greenway Project” in Clitheroe which through de-silting a redundant Mill Lodge, construction of a Fish Pass and a Footpath will create a public open space in the town of Clitheroe.

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme – Hosted by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty this is supporting the Pendle Woodland and Invasive Non-Native Species Project (Pendle WINNS) which focuses on the creation and management of new and existing woodland within the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership project. As well as management of Invasive Non-Native Species. The funding originates principally from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Others – Ribble Valley Borough Council (INNS Control); Pendle Borough Council supporting the design of river restoration works in Pendle; Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust supporting woodland creation and activities linked to the Facilitation Fund, Ribblesdale Farm Group; Lancashire Environment Fund (Wetland creation in the Hyndburn Catchment), Sport England contributing to our Get Active Fishing project, and a range of schools contributing to our education campaign.

Transfers between funds

Transfers to Restricted Funds arise when costs on a project which is supported by an external funder exceed the funding received and the shortfall is made up by a transfer from Unrestricted Funds. Funding transfers from Restricted Funds arise when the agreed budget for an item of expenditure is overestimated and a surplus is therefore generated. With the assent of the funder, the balance is transferred to another fund as appropriate.

RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

13. Analysis of Net Assets between restricted and unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
Tangible Fixed Assets	12,930	2,469	15,399	22,419
Current Assets	600,317	847,655	1,447,972	1,254,397
Current Liabilities	(262,398)	(21,432)	(283,830)	(64,868)
Creditors due after one year	(750)	-	(750)	(1,050)
	<u>350,099</u>	<u>828,692</u>	<u>1,178,791</u>	<u>1,210,898</u>

14. Operating lease commitments

As at 31 January 2021 the Trust had total future lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Total commitment	<u>1,516</u>	<u>2,965</u>

15. Related Party Transactions

During the year, the following transactions took place between the Trust and Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited, a company registered in England and Wales which is a wholly owned subsidiary:

The Trust recharged costs of £23,594 (2020: £24,496) to the subsidiary and the subsidiary company made a donation of £nil (2020: £12,642) to the Trust.

At 31 January 2021, there was an amount of £27,437 (2020: £10,836) included in debtors in respect of Ribble Rivers Consultancy Limited.