

*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**

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
Significant Information	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 9
Independent Auditors' Report	10 - 13
Statement of Financial Activities	14
Balance Sheet	15
Cash Flow Statement	16
Notes to the Financial Statements	17-26

# 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 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022)
J A Cowburn	Chairman (from 22 <sup>nd</sup> 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.

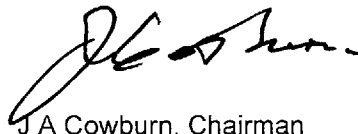
They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
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					
Angling Passport Tokens		4,083	-	4,083	5,034
Fee Income		10,112	-	10,112	12,864
Investments					
Bank Interest		1,323	-	1,323	90
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>133,322</b>	<b>2,039,824</b>	<b>2,173,146</b>	<b>132,324</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable Activities					
<b>Net income/ (expenditure)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>83,154</b>	<b>2,164,298</b>	<b>2,247,452</b>	<b>94,829</b>
Transfer between funds					
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>(12,631)</b>	<b>12,631</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,856</b>
		<b>37,537</b>	<b>(111,843)</b>	<b>(74,306)</b>	<b>41,351</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total Funds brought forward	<b>13</b>	<b>391,450</b>	<b>802,540</b>	<b>1,193,990</b>	<b>350,099</b>
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>428,987</b>	<b>690,697</b>	<b>1,119,684</b>	<b>391,450</b>

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.



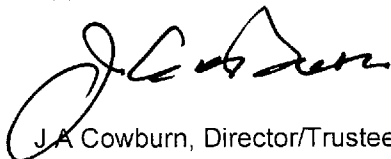
**RIBBLE CATCHMENT CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JANUARY 2023**

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

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

# 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**

		<b>2023 £</b>		<b>2022 £</b>
	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
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**

		<b>2023 £</b>		<b>2022 £</b>
	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
<b>Summary by fund type</b>				
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**

	<b>2023</b>			<b>2022</b>	
	<b>Staff Costs</b>	<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>£ Other Costs</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ Total</b>
Farm Advice & Improvements	83,217	-	40,384	123,601	118,408
Fish Passage	103,888	-	242,025	345,913	936,086
School Education	10,591	-	303	10,894	12,103
Habitat Improvement	564,350	8,083	1,127,191	1,699,624	981,527
Public Engagement	44,974	-	5,176	50,150	<u>1,191</u>
Ecological Monitoring	<u>11,694</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,576</u>	<u>17,270</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>818,714</u>	<u>8,083</u>	<u>1,420,655</u>	<u>2,247,452</u>	<u>2,049,315</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:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
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:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
£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)**

<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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:**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
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 £
<b>Cost</b>		
Brought forward	124,576	124,576
Additions	3,660	3,660
Disposals	-	-
At 31 January 2023	<u>128,236</u>	<u>128,236</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
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>
<b>10. Creditors falling due within one year</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
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
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>391,450</u>	<u>133,322</u>	<u>83,154</u>	<u>(12,631)</u>	<u>428,987</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
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>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u><b>1,193,990</b></u>	<u><b>2,173,146</b></u>	<u><b>2,247,452</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>1,119,684</b></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.