

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
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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
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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.

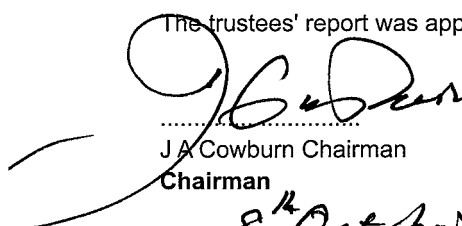
Auditor

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
	<hr/>
At 31 January 2024	145,436
	<hr/>
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 February 2023	118,207
Depreciation charged in the year	10,978
	<hr/>
At 31 January 2024	129,185
	<hr/>
Carrying amount	
At 31 January 2024	16,251
	<hr/>
At 31 January 2023	10,030
	<hr/>

13 Fixed asset investments

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

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.

