

Company Registration No. 03498691 (England and Wales)

Charity Registration No.1070672

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

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP
Chartered Accountants
New Century House
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RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

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

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

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

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

Delivery of Objectives:

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

Volunteers:

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

Public benefit:

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

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

Achievements and performance, including Plans for Future Periods

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

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

Ribble Revival

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

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

Community Catchments:

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

Ribble Life

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

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

Future Plans

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

Education

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

Future Plans

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Darwen engagement and environmental priorities (DEEP)

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

Future Plans

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

Darwen Community Catchments

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

Future Plans

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

Clitheroe Community Catchment

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

Future Plans

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Wrea Green Community Catchment

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

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

Future Plans

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

Angling Passport Scheme

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

Future Plans

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

Fylde Waters Outdoor Learning

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

Future Plans

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

Farming Communities:

Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture (DWPA)

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

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

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Future Plans

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

Trawden Natural Flood Risk Management

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

Future Plans

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

Room for Rivers:

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

Opening Up the River Douglas (OUR Douglas)

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

Future Plans

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

Long Preston Flood Plain Partnership

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

Future Plans

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

Tawd Valley Wetlands

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

Future Plans

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

Lancashire Woodland Connect

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

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

Future Plans

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

Jack's Key NFM

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

Future Plans

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

Blackburn with Darwen NFM

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

Future Plans

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

Species Survival: Room for Rivers

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

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

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

Future Plans

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

Mainstreaming Nature Based Solutions

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

Future Plans

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

Monitoring for Change

CaSTCo

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

Future Plans

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

Turning Tides

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

Future Plans

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

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

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

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

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

Other Projects

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

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

Wider Future Plans

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

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

Financial review

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

Reserves policy

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

Investment policy

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

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

Structure, governance and management

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

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

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

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

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

J A Cowburn (Chairman)

J E Alcock

J F Bleasdale

D W Bradley

M J Ellacot

J P Lord (Resigned 16 October 2024)

C H Marchbank

J J B Rawkins

A T Rowntree

D J Wilmot (Resigned 20 August 2025)

J L Yates

Remuneration policy

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

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Ribble Rivers Trust Limited for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

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

Disclosure of information to auditor

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

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


.....
J A Cowburn
Chairman

Date: 15 Oct 2025

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

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

In our opinion, the financial statements:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

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

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

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

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

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

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

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

Use of our report

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

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP

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

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

Chartered Accountants

New Century House

Greenbank Technology Park

Challenge Way

Blackburn

Lancashire

BB1 5QB

Date: 16/10/2025

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

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

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET


AS AT 31 JANUARY 2025

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

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on

15 October 2025


J A Cowburn
Chairman


A T Rowntree
Secretary and treasurer

Company registration number 03498691 (England and Wales)

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

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

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

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

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

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

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

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

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

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

1.7 Fixed asset investments

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

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.9 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Employee benefits

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.11 Retirement benefits

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

3 Income from charitable activities

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

4 Income from investments

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

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

6 Support costs allocated to activities

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

7	Net movement in funds	2025	2024
		£	£

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

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

8 Trustees

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

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

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

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

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

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

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

9 Employees

(Continued)

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

10 Taxation

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

11 Tangible fixed assets

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

12 Fixed asset investments

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

13 Debtors

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

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

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

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

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

16 Retirement benefit schemes

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

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

17 Restricted funds

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

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

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

17 Restricted funds

(Continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

18 Unrestricted funds

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

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

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

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

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST LIMITED

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

20 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

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

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

21 Related party transactions

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

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

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

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

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

The Charity had no material debt during the year.

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