WEAR RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1094613

Details

Other names	THE WEARDALE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04260195
Registered	2002-11-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Suite 6A Kingfisher House Meadowfield Durham DH7 8TZ
Phone	07786886014
Email	admin@wear-rivers-trust.org.uk
Website	www.wear-rivers-trust.org.uk

Activities

Objects: A) TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, REHABILITATE, AND IMPROVE THE LANDSCAPE, RIVERS, STREAMS, WATERCOURSES AND WATER IMPOUNDMENTS OF THE WEAR CATCHMENT, COUNTY DURHAM, INCLUDING WEARDALE, THE LOWER WEAR AND ADJACENT ESTUARINE AND COASTAL AREAS.B) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC, OR ANY ASSOCIATION, COMPANY, LOCAL AUTHORITY, ADMINISTRATIVE OR GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR PUBLIC BODY OR REPRESENTATIVE BODY IN - (1) THE UNDERSTANDING OF RIVERS, RIVER CORRIDORS AND CATCHMENTS, INCLUDING THEIR FAUNA, FLORA AND ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL ACTIVITY, AND RIVER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT.(2) THE NEED FOR, AND BENEFITS OF, CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS

Activities: The Objects of the Company are to conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve the landscape, rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the Wear catchment To advance the education in:- (1) The understanding of rivers and river catchment management. (2) The need for, and benefits of, conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of aquatic environments.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE WEAR CATCHMENT, COUNTY DURHAM, INCLUDING WEARDALE, THE LOWER WEAR AND ADJACENT ESTUARINE AND COASTAL AREAS.
- Durham
- Sunderland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£832,160	£838,987	£112,154	21
2024-03-31	£579,839	£615,060	£118,981	15
2023-03-31	£484,188	£544,032	-	-
2022-03-31	£462,845	£440,156	-	-
2021-03-31	£327,701	£434,882	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dan Britton		2021-05-15
James Tague		2026-04-26
Jason Alan Kennedy		2025-07-30
John David Hutchinson		2018-11-22
KIMM LAWSON		2024-10-23
Michael Thomas Siddle		2024-01-31
Neil Embry Wilson ASHFORTH		
Terence Featherstone		2023-10-23

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WEAR RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1094613

Accounts

Docusign Envelope ID: 85F16AB8-AFAB-44AE-8BB4-4482C072FA41

Charity registration number 1094613 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 04260195

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Docusign Envelope ID: 85F16AB8-AFAB-44AE-8BB4-4482C072FA41

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	N Ashforth D Hutchinson D Britton T Featherstone K Lawson M T Siddle J A Kennedy (Appointed 30 July 2025)
Secretary	N Ashforth
Charity number (England and Wales)	1094613
Company number	04260195
Registered office	Suite 6a Kingfisher House St. Johns Road Meadowfield Industrial Estate Durham DH7 8TZ
Independent examiner	David Holloway BA FCA DChA RMT Accountants & Business Advisors Ltd Finchdale House Belmont Business Park Durham DH1 1TW

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WEAR RIVERS TRUST

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WEAR RIVERS TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (12-month period)

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 Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Small Entities (2015) Charities SORP.

Objectives and activities

The charitable objectives for which the Wear Rivers Trust (WRT) was established are:

To conserve, protect and rehabilitate and improve the landscape, rivers, streams, water courses and water impoundments of the whole Wear catchment, Co-Durham including Weardale, the middle and lower Wear, all tributaries and adjacent estuarine and coastal areas and waters.

To advance the education of the public, or any association, company, local authority, administrative or government agency in the understanding of rivers, corridors and catchments, including their fauna, economic and social context activity, comprising river catchment management. To provide a greater understanding as to the need and benefits of conservation, protection, rehabilitation, and improvement of aquatic environments.

These objectives must be seen in the context of the global climate change emergency. WRT as part of the national Rivers Trust network, as host of the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP) is working at the local scale to support the global imperatives of both mitigating and managing the consequences of climate change. WRT promotes and delivers practical measures through the Wear Catchment Management and Action Plans to improve integrated urban and rural land, surface water and groundwater management, sequestering carbon, improving drought resilience, and reducing flood risk.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act the trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. All activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The Trust relies on volunteers to collect monitoring data, carry out practical tasks, support educational activities and to develop and manage projects including through local community groups and networks. All volunteer hours are recorded and used as match funding to support funding applications.

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Achievements and Performance

Sustainable Funding to Deliver Charitable Objectives

The recruitment of a new Chief Executive Officer has provided an opportunity for the Trust to review its strategic direction and organisational priorities. As part of this process, the Trustees have placed increased emphasis on securing sustainable and strategic funding to support the Trust's activities from 2025 onwards.

In response to a changing external funding environment, the Trust has begun to explore longer term funding models that align with its charitable objectives and enable delivery at a larger, landscape scale. This includes the development of new relationships with strategic funders, public bodies, and delivery partners, alongside the strengthening of existing partnerships. These relationships are intended to support multi-year projects that deliver lasting environmental and community benefits, while providing greater financial stability for the organisation.

The Trustees recognise that reliance on short-term and restricted funding presents a financial risk to the Trust's long-term resilience. As a result, the Trust's funding strategy is evolving to diversify income streams, reduce dependency on single funding sources, and improve forward financial planning. This approach is expected to enhance the Trust's capacity to plan, resource, and deliver complex projects over extended timeframes.

Risk management remains a key consideration in this transition. The Trustees regularly review financial and operational risks, including those associated with funding availability and project scale, and are satisfied that appropriate controls and mitigation measures are in place. The Trust continues to maintain adequate reserves and cash flow forecasting to support its going concern status.

The Trustees believe that this strategic shift positions the Trust well to take advantage of emerging funding opportunities, strengthens its financial sustainability, and supports the delivery of its charitable purposes over the medium to long term.

The Trusts core mission, values and activities are reflected across all media on a daily basis: reducing flood risk, improving water quality and drought resilience, enhancing biodiversity and working with farmers to store carbon and move into Biodiversity Net Gain arenas, all whilst supporting public access and enjoyment of Nature.

The Trust's website and digital communications platforms are currently under review and development to ensure they effectively reflect the Trust's priorities, activities, and strategic direction. This work is intended to improve the accessibility and clarity of information for stakeholders, funders, partners, and the wider public, and to better demonstrate the impact of the Trust's work across the Wear Catchment.

To support this objective, the Trust now employs a Communications Officer who works closely with the Volunteering and Engagement Officer to increase public awareness, engagement, and visibility. This coordinated approach aims to strengthen community involvement, promote volunteering opportunities, and enhance the Trust's profile through consistent and targeted messaging across digital and social media platforms.

In addition, the Trust employs a Development Manager whose remit includes expanding the Trust's corporate volunteering offer and strengthening engagement with corporate organisations operating within the Wear Catchment. This activity is focused on building relationships with businesses that demonstrate a commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), with the aim of developing mutually beneficial partnerships that support project delivery, increase volunteer participation, and contribute to the Trust's long-term sustainability.

Deliverables 2024 – 2025

Wear Catchment Partnership

Funded by Defra and Northumbrian Water.

The WCP now benefits from a dedicated Catchment Manager, employed through WRT, to lead the development of the partnership. The Catchment Manager's role focuses on identifying and coordinating catchment-wide, multi-partner projects that have the potential to secure multi-year, strategic funding and deliver impact at a landscape scale. This strengthened capacity ensures that the WCP can plan and deliver larger, more integrated initiatives, fostering collaboration across partners and maximising environmental, social, and community benefits throughout the Wear Catchment.

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Links with Nature

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and Sunderland City Council (SCC)

A key stage 2 delivery project is underway to promote community engagement and participation in habitat creation and improvement across 13 sites in the Sunderland Coalfield area. The project is led by Durham Wildlife Trust, which also administers Heritage Lottery Fund and SCC claims, WRT supporting project coordination.

The project is complex due to the number of sites involved and has faced some funding delays, but Trustees are satisfied that it is on track, with activities proceeding as planned and the budget adhered to. Delivery continues through to March 2026, focusing on habitat management, species monitoring, and practical conservation tasks, engaging local communities and volunteers in stewardship of their natural environment. The project contributes directly to the WCP's objectives of delivering multi-partner, catchment-scale environmental improvements.

WRT Education Offer

The WRT Education Team delivers a broad programme of catchment-wide environmental education, funded through The Tom Cowie Charitable Trust, Durham County Council, and individual schools. The team continues to work across the Wear catchment, delivering targeted blocks of work in key areas, alongside ad-hoc sessions elsewhere. Schemes of work and curriculum-linked resources have been developed to provide schools with a wider range of lesson ideas, enhancing the delivery of education sessions by WRT officers.

With the creation of WERM, the Education Team aims to develop and market sessions to schools in a more coordinated manner, offering a core educational programme across the catchment. Safeguarding remains a priority, with the Safeguarding Policy renewed and a structured quarterly review process now reported as a standard agenda item at WRT Board meetings.

The team has successfully expanded activity in target areas, including the Gaunless catchment, Stanley (via the SuDS+ project), and Sunderland, while continuing to deliver educational engagement across the wider catchment.

The WRT Education Team has successfully achieved Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) accreditation, making WRT the only organisation in the North East offering environmental education activities with this recognition. This accreditation demonstrates the quality and safety of the Trust's educational provision and significantly enhances WRT's profile as a viable option for commissioned or paid education activities, supporting financial sustainability and further development of the Education Programme.

Funded by The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust, the Sunderland River Schools programme has continued to grow year on year. From September 2024 to July 2025, fourteen schools received in-school introductory sessions and a Harehope day in Weardale. Expansion of the programme, alongside excellent feedback from participating schools, is a key indicator of the programme's success.

Stanley SuDS+ Project

Funded by the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme via Durham County Council, the Stanley SuDS+ project is now in its third year of a multi-year programme running until March 2027. The project aims to develop an innovative, community-based approach to Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), evaluating community benefits and creating a template with potential for national application.

WRT's role focuses on community engagement, including consultation on site design, planning for long-term maintenance, and liaising between technical specialists, local businesses, and community stakeholders. The project also delivers River School education sessions to local primary and secondary schools, integrating habitat improvements with a core flood management theme and practical volunteer involvement in the Stanley Burn headwaters.

Through these activities, the project raises awareness of SuDS and the wider water environment while fostering community stewardship, providing a model for sustainable urban water management that is replicable across other communities.

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Weardale Abandoned Metal Mines (WAMM) Containment of contaminated sediments from historic metal mines

Funded by Mining Remediation Authority (Formerly The Coal Authority). WRT continues to provide support to the Mining Remediation Authority (MRA) by monitoring discharges from Cambokeels and inspecting and maintaining existing pollution containment installations in the Killhope and Middlehope catchments.

The Trust has completed feasibility studies investigating the ingress of surface water into Park Level Mine at Killhope and Sharnberry Mine, which impacts the water quality of Euden Beck and Bedburn. In addition, WRT continues to support ongoing monitoring along Rookhope Burn.

Working closely with the Environment Agency, the Trust utilises their data to identify prospective projects in collaboration with the MRA, ensuring interventions are targeted, evidence-based, and capable of delivering measurable improvements to water quality across the catchment.

Agricultural Land Management: NEIRF

Funded by Environment Agency.

The Trust has secured a new project funded by the Environment Agency, working with five farmers across the catchment to explore opportunities for carbon credits and attract potential private sector investors. The project aims to improve the financial resilience of the natural environment sector and increase overall funding availability by stimulating investment from the private sector.

Key objectives of the project include:

- Supporting farmers to achieve natural environment outcomes identified in their Environmental Improvement Plans.
- Enabling farmers to generate revenue from ecosystem services, either to fund delivery directly or to attract and repay investment.
- Developing a scalable business and investment model that can be replicated by other farmers across the catchment and beyond.

The project is scheduled to run until March 2026, contributing to the Trust’s broader strategic objective of leveraging innovative funding mechanisms to support long-term environmental delivery at a landscape scale.

WEIF Old Durham Beck

Funded by Environment Agency

The Trust continues delivery of a WEIF-funded project focused on the restoration of Old Durham Beck, with this phase concentrating on land management and enhancing ecosystem services through improved soil health. The project delivers multiple environmental benefits, including improvements to biodiversity, water quality, flood risk management, and drought resilience.

The project also addresses multiple barriers to fish passage identified across the Old Durham Beck system. This project exemplifies the Trust’s approach of combining research-led evidence, practical habitat restoration, and multi-benefit ecosystem management to deliver sustainable outcomes across the catchment. The project ended in March 2025.

WEIF Soils Implementation

Funded by the Environment Agency

The Trust has implemented a fish pass on Houselop Beck as part of this project, improving aquatic connectivity and supporting fish populations. This project continues to emphasise the management of agricultural soils, recognised as the single most critical factor affecting multiple ecosystem services, including water quality, as defined under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The project builds on existing farmer networks developed through previous WEIF initiatives and Northumbrian Water’s Browney Phosphate Reduction project, delivered over the last eight years. It focuses on two WFD waterbodies: Smallhope Burn (Source to Browney) and Houselop Beck (Source to Wear), both of which have probable or confirmed River Network Action Groups (RNAGs) relating to agricultural impacts.

Through habitat restoration, soil management interventions, and engagement with the farming community, the project delivers multiple ecosystem benefits, including improved biodiversity, water quality, flood risk mitigation, and drought resilience, while creating a model for replicable, research-led catchment management.

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Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Funded by Durham County Council

The Durham Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) provides a framework for prioritising nature's needs at a local and targeted level. The strategy acts as a blueprint for the recovery of biodiversity, identifying opportunities to support wildflower grasslands, woodlands, wetlands, and new hedgerows across County Durham.

The LNRS will guide and focus funding from a variety of sources, including the government's Biodiversity Net Gain policy, Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes, and other cross-sector or private funding streams, such as those for woodland creation, natural flood management, and species-specific projects.

WRT is leading the Rivers and Running Waters and Wetlands subgroup, working to establish priorities, measures, and mapping to inform the strategy. The LNRS is scheduled for publication in April 2026, providing a clear roadmap for nature recovery and strategic investment across the county.

Wear Invasive Non-Native Species Projects

Funding: Postcode Local, Durham University, NWG Branchout, Durham Cathedral, City of Durham Parish Council, Durham Wildlife Trust, Durham Area Action Partnership

WRT continues to engage at the regional level, coordinating activity with other rivers trusts from the Tweed to the Tees. Within the Wear catchment, active management is focused on priority areas, particularly in the headwaters of Upper Weardale, as well as the Browney and Gaunless catchments, aligning with wider farm and habitat improvement initiatives. Invasive species management also provides a strong community engagement opportunity, particularly through the Stanley SuDS+ project.

Pittington Beck, in the upper Old Durham Beck system, has been identified as a key source of Giant Hogweed, which supplies seed leading to infestations throughout the Durham Peninsula World Heritage Site and downstream to Sunderland. WRT continues to work closely with local landowners to treat source areas, with significant and ongoing support from multiple funders. The Trust continually seeks additional funding streams to enable comprehensive management of invasive non-native species from the top of the catchment to the sea, maximising impact and supporting the long-term health and resilience of the river system.

Thriving Catchments

Funded by Northumbrian Water Group (NWG) and The Rivers Trust (RT)

Thriving Catchments is a strategic partnership between Northumbrian Water and The Rivers Trust. This initiative focuses on delivering wastewater treatment outcomes through natural and catchment-based solutions, providing multiple benefits including improved water quality, enhanced biodiversity, and benefits for local communities.

WRT has been actively involved since September 2023. During this time, WRT has supported the development of proposals for catchment activity and helped build regional capacity and capability to deliver projects across the North East, that contribute to the achievement of Water Framework Directive (WFD) 'Good' Status for phosphate and nutrient neutrality.

Delivery activities were led collaboratively by Northumbrian Water and The Rivers Trust, with support from key stakeholders such as the Tees, Tyne and Wear Rivers Trusts and Durham Wildlife Trust. Engagement with regional stakeholders and communities was a central component, fostering strong collaborative approaches and participatory community involvement in catchment management.

Although Thriving Catchments will not continue beyond a three-month extension to June 2025, WRT's strong relationship with Northumbrian Water will allow the identification of alternative projects funded through other NWL schemes, ensuring that the positive impacts and benefits achieved to date can continue.

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Bluespaces Programme: Old Durham Beck, Cut Throat Dene and Gaunless and Hummerbeck

Funded by Northumbrian Water Group (NWG)

Bluespaces projects deliver multi-benefit catchment improvements, combining habitat enhancement, water quality improvement, and community engagement. A key component of these projects is making water bodies more accessible to the public, through improved access, waymarking, and pathways, enabling local communities to enjoy and connect with their local rivers and wetlands.

The Bluespaces Gaunless Hummerbeck project has been recognised as the best Bluespaces project in 24/25, with WRT receiving an award at a Northumbrian Water celebration event in late 2025. This project demonstrates the Trust's success in delivering:

- Catchment-scale habitat improvements, including wetland creation and riverbank restoration.
- Biodiversity enhancement across terrestrial and aquatic habitats.
- Community engagement, through volunteer activities and local participation.
- Flood risk management and water quality improvements.
- Improved public accessibility, including waymarked paths and safe access points to water bodies.

Bluespaces initiatives are designed to provide integrated environmental and social benefits, including:

- Promoting community stewardship and volunteer engagement across the catchment.
- Creating multi-functional green and blue spaces that combine habitat, recreation, and education.
- Supporting resilience to climate impacts, including natural flood management and drought mitigation.
- Enhancing awareness and enjoyment of local rivers and wetlands, encouraging sustainable interaction with the natural environment.

Through these initiatives, WRT demonstrates a model of integrated catchment management, successfully combining practical interventions, strategic partnerships, and public engagement, while making rivers and wetlands accessible, educational, and enjoyable for local communities. The Trust will continue to submit future funding bids to the Bluespaces programme to further enhance the waterbodies in the catchment.

Gaunless – Auckland Castle Feasibility Study

Funded by The Auckland Project

WRT is working with The Auckland Project on a feasibility study of the River Gaunless as it passes through the Deer Park at Auckland Castle. The study aims to identify opportunities to enhance the watercourse, improving visitor experience and enjoyment of the castle and its grounds.

This initiative forms part of a broader, multi-faceted plan for the Gaunless, including:

- Environment Agency funding to identify and modify fish passage barriers, improving river connectivity.
- Northumbrian Water Group (NWG) funding through the Bluespaces programme to further enhance public accessibility and waymarking along the river.
- A planned Heritage Lottery Fund bid to celebrate the heritage of the Gaunless, increase community engagement, and raise awareness of the river's ecological and cultural value.

Through these combined efforts, WRT is integrating habitat enhancement, heritage conservation, and public engagement, ensuring the Gaunless delivers multiple environmental, recreational, and cultural benefits.

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Financial review

Incoming resources for the year (12 month period) were £832,160 (2024: £579,839). Total reserves for the year £112,154 (2024: £118,981), of which £51,284 (2024: £46,917) related to unrestricted reserves and £60,870 (2024: £72,064) was restricted.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to 6 months' average expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. The level of reserves has fallen below the target. Significant work has been undertaken in the current financial year to build free reserves and the trustees are confident that the target will be met in 2026/2027.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the companies act 2006.

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:

N Ashforth	
D Hutchinson	
G A Bell	(Resigned 29 January 2025)
D Britton	
T Featherstone	
K Lawson	
M T Siddle	
J A Kennedy	(Appointed 30 July 2025)

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Organisational structure

Trustee and Director Succession, Contingency, Resilience and Team Structure. Partnership Working

The chair of Trustees Graham Bell retired from the Board in January 2025, Michael Siddle took over as Chair of Trustees in January 2025.

The Trust's new Chair is committed to strengthening governance and leadership capacity in 2025. Key priorities include:

- Trustee recruitment to ensure a diverse and skilled Board capable of supporting the Trust's strategic ambitions.
- Conducting a comprehensive governance review to confirm that policies, procedures, and structures remain robust, transparent, and aligned with best practice.

These initiatives are being undertaken in line with the renewed strategy of the Chief Executive Officer, as set out in the reviewed business plan, ensuring the Trust is well-positioned to deliver its objectives effectively, manage risk, and maintain public and stakeholder confidence.

Peter Nailon the Strategic Funding Director (previously Director) fully retired on 30th June 2024 with Kirstie Hutchinson taking over as Chief Executive Officer on 1st July 2024 from her previous role of Chief Operating Officer. Paul Atkinson has been appointed as Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

The staff team continues to be fully home based, the Trust however as an office hub based in Durham for staff to use for meetings or working together. It is encouraged that all staff work in the office at least one day per week.

The Trust continues to retain staff at a 100% rate; this is helped by TOIL and an EDI and Mental Health Initiative introduced.

The Trust outsources external support to assist with the management of Information Technology security, maintenance and development, Human Resources and Health & Safety Management. This approach has made available specialist expertise not available internally from within the staff team, proved to be cost effective and has enabled the Trust to concentrate WRT resources and focus its own key organisational objectives and specialist areas of expertise.

A new Project Management Software package Coretime has been introduced in late 2024 to enable the effective running of projects financially and delivery of objectives. The system continues to be developed so it is fully functional in the new financial year.

The Trust continues to promote partnership working, primarily through the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP). The WCP has a dedicated staff member working as a Catchment Manager to develop the WCP, funded by CaBA.

A wholly owned company Wear Environmental Resources Management (WERM) continues to be developed to deliver environmental works on a commercial rather than grant basis for the coming financial year. All profits arising will be donated to the Wear Rivers Trust.

The Trust has updated its 5-year Business plan 2025 to 2030, consolidating its purpose, values, governance & structure, aims & objectives, forecast activity and funding.

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

DocuSigned by:
Mr Neil Ashforth
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N Ashforth
Trustee

Date: 21 December 2025

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WEAR RIVERS TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEAR RIVERS TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Wear Rivers Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

Signed by:
David Holloway
025A9DBEB6AZ4D2...

David Holloway BA FCA DChA
RMT Accountants & Business Advisors Ltd
Finchdale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Date: 22 December 2025

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WEAR RIVERS TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	**3**	9,721	-	9,721	31,962	-	31,962
Charitable activities	**4**	62,244	758,868	821,112	26,691	517,690	544,381
Investments	**5**	1,327	-	1,327	3,496	-	3,496
Total income		73,292	758,868	832,160	62,149	517,690	579,839
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	**6**	68,925	770,062	838,987	89,668	525,392	615,060
Total expenditure		68,925	770,062	838,987	89,668	525,392	615,060
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		4,367	(11,194)	(6,827)	(27,519)	(7,702)	(35,221)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		46,917	72,064	118,981	74,436	79,766	154,202
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		51,284	60,870	112,154	46,917	72,064	118,981

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

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WEAR RIVERS TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**12**		17,930		21,308
Investments	**13**		1		1
			17,931		21,309
Current assets					
Debtors	**14**	181,712		121,844	
Cash at bank and in hand		43,453		24,237	
		225,165		146,081	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**15**	(130,942)		(48,409)	
Net current assets			94,223		97,672
Total assets less current liabilities			112,154		118,981
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	**16**		60,870		72,064
Unrestricted funds	**17**		51,284		46,917
			112,154		118,981

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 21 December 2025

DocuSigned by:
Mr Neil Ashforth
5D1F6396D9D7459...

N Ashforth
Trustee

Company registration number 04260195 (England and Wales)

Docusign Envelope ID: 85F16AB8-AFAB-44AE-8BB4-4482C072FA41

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**21**		22,729		14,601
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,840)		(9,940)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		-		930	
Investment income received		1,327		3,496	
Net cash used in investing activities			(3,513)		(5,514)
Net cash generated from financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			19,216		9,087
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			24,237		15,150
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			43,453		24,237

Docusign Envelope ID: 85F16AB8-AFAB-44AE-8BB4-4482C072FA41

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Wear Rivers Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Suite 6a, Kingfisher House, St. Johns Road, Meadowfield Industrial Estate, Durham, DH7 8TZ.

1.1 Basis of preparation

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.

The level of reserves has fallen below the target. Significant work has been undertaken in the current financial year to build free reserves and the trustees are confident that the target will be met in 2026/2027.

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

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be qualified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

- Investment income is recognised when receivable.

- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration for its performance.

- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional or related to the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

- Sponsorship income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities on the date of receipt.

Docusign Envelope ID: 85F16AB8-AFAB-44AE-8BB4-4482C072FA41

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

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.

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:

Plant and equipment	25% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	10% reducing balance

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 cost, and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated impairment loss. Any impairment is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

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.

Docusign Envelope ID: 85F16AB8-AFAB-44AE-8BB4-4482C072FA41

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

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.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

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

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

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.

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3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	9,721	31,962

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Conservation and protection						
Grants	62,244	758,868	821,112	26,691	517,690	544,381

Performance related grants analysis

	Conservation and protection 2025 £	Conservation and protection 2024 £
The Environment Agency	200,302	102,582
Durham County Council	197,365	199,342
Northumbrian Water Group Limited	151,390	116,144
The Coal Authority	49,261	26,691
John Muir Trust	6,500	-
North East Community Forest	5,034	-
Pryer and Ricket	1,125	-
Sunderland City Council	17,373	-
Tom Cowie Foundation	35,621	20,084
Durham Wildlife Trust	132,083	17,332
Tees Rivers Trust	9,600	-
The Auckland Project	15,458	
The Rivers Trust	-	4,548
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	-	14,965
North Pennines AONB Partnership	-	31,957
Innovate	-	10,736
	821,112	544,381

Docusign Envelope ID: 85F16AB8-AFAB-44AE-8BB4-4482C072FA41

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	1,327	3,496

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Conservation and protection 2025 £	Conservation and protection 2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	601,153	382,824
External services	48,376	82,597
Materials, repairs and renewals	68,766	52,015
	718,295	517,436
Share of support and governance costs (see note 7)		
Support	120,692	97,624
	838,987	615,060
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	68,925	89,668
Restricted funds	770,062	525,392
	838,987	615,060

7 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	8,218	7,254
Project overheads	109,920	88,077
Sundry	34	13
Governance costs	2,520	2,280
	120,692	97,624
Analysed between:		
Conservation and protection	120,692	97,624

Docusign Envelope ID: 85F16AB8-AFAB-44AE-8BB4-4482C072FA41

8 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,520	2,280
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	8,218	7,254

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any expenses, remuneration or benefits from the charity during the current or prior year.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Employees	21	15

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	523,104	327,841
Social security costs	49,117	33,766
Other pension costs	28,932	21,217
	601,153	382,824

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

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,001 to £70,000	1	1

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	97,140	125,105

11 Taxation

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

Docusign Envelope ID: 85F16AB8-AFAB-44AE-8BB4-4482C072FA41

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	32,886	3,675	36,561
Additions	3,455	1,385	4,840
At 31 March 2025	36,341	5,060	41,401
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2024	14,461	792	15,253
Depreciation charged in the year	7,918	300	8,218
At 31 March 2025	22,379	1,092	23,471
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	13,962	3,968	17,930
At 31 March 2024	18,425	2,883	21,308

13 Fixed asset investments

	Other investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2024 & 31 March 2025	1
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	1
At 31 March 2024	1

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Investments in subsidiaries	**20**	1	1

14 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	50,366	40,202
Amounts owed by fellow group undertakings	4,382	12,852
Prepayments and accrued income	126,964	68,790
	181,712	121,844

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15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	97,109	27,967
Trade creditors	31,343	17,952
Accruals and deferred income	2,490	2,490
	130,942	48,409

16 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 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
CaBa	-	15,000	(13,049)	1,951
Wear INNS Management Plan EEU	5,597	25,000	(30,550)	47
Education and Riverfly	-	6,500	(6,168)	332
Cool Waters	673	-	(673)	-
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	516	164,566	(161,517)	3,565
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering project	661	-	-	661
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	343	35,621	(31,023)	4,941
RT NWL Partnership	1,694	146,390	(147,220)	864
Chester le Street AAP	5,255	-	-	5,255
Citizen Science and Riverfly	4	5,000	(2,144)	2,860
NWL Bluespace - Old Durham Beck	6,053	-	(4,987)	1,066
DWT / SCC Linked Together	303	132,083	(131,174)	1,212
Weardale FFF	1,677	-	-	1,677
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	1,468	-	(213)	1,255
WEIF Soils EA	1	95,000	(95,001)	-
Bluespaces NWL - South Burn	3,451	-	(3,247)	204
Bluespaces NWL - Cut Throat Dene	13,550	5,000	(15,890)	2,660
Priority Habitats NWL - Beechburn	23,716	-	(17,669)	6,047
Bluespace NWL - Hummerbeck and Gaunless	6,784	-	(4,233)	2,551
Volunteering and Engagement	319	-	-	319
WEIF ODB	-	66,000	(66,000)	-
WRT Tree Planting	-	5,034	(4,080)	954
NFM Studies	-	884	-	884
INNS and Wetlands	-	12,373	(6,845)	5,528
Durham LNRS	-	6,915	(3,548)	3,367
NEIRF	-	27,902	(24,831)	3,071
Regional INNS	-	9,600	-	9,600
	72,064	758,868	(770,062)	60,870

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16 Restricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
Carbon Connects	-	14,965	(14,965)	-
Weardale Natural Flood Management	6,188	-	(6,188)	-
CaBa	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
Wear INNS Management Plan EEU	5,252	32,350	(32,005)	5,597
Education and Riverfly	1,660	-	(1,660)	-
Cool Waters	6,084	2,663	(8,074)	673
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	17,546	-	(17,546)	-
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage Systems	3,174	113,612	(116,270)	516
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering Project	5,365	-	(4,704)	661
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	1,654	20,084	(21,395)	343
RT NWL Partnership	-	26,902	(25,208)	1,694
Chester le Street AAP	5,889	-	(634)	5,255
Citizen Science and Riverfly	201	4,548	(4,745)	4
NWL Blue Space - Old Durham Beck	14,271	6,700	(14,918)	6,053
DWT / SCC Linked Together	3,594	49,288	(52,579)	303
Weardale FFF	128	7,427	(5,878)	1,677
NWL Blackdene	-	4,852	(4,852)	-
Fun & Food	2,361	21,952	(24,313)	-
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	6,400	16,001	(20,933)	1,468
WEIF Soils EA	-	25,409	(25,408)	1
WEIF Old Durham Beck EA	-	29,511	(29,511)	-
Bluespaces NWL - South Burn	-	10,000	(6,549)	3,451
Bluespaces NWL - Cut Throat Dene	-	23,500	(9,950)	13,550
Priority Habits NWL - Beechburn	-	30,000	(6,284)	23,716
Bluespaces NWL - Hummerbeck and Gaunless	-	14,190	(7,406)	6,784
Innovate - Agri Plastics	-	10,736	(10,736)	-
Volunteering and Engagement	-	8,000	(7,681)	319
WEIF Beechburn Beckons	-	30,000	(30,000)	-
	79,766	517,690	(525,392)	72,064

17 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 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	46,917	73,292	(68,925)	51,284

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17 Unrestricted funds **(Continued)**

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	74,436	62,149	(89,668)	46,917

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2025:			
Tangible assets	17,930	-	17,930
Investments	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	33,353	60,870	94,223
	51,284	60,870	112,154

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	21,308	-	21,308
Investments	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	25,608	72,064	97,672
	46,917	72,064	118,981

19 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

Docusign Envelope ID: 85F16AB8-AFAB-44AE-8BB4-4482C072FA41

20 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate charity financial statements for Water and Environmental Resources Management Limited

Details of the charity's subsidiaries at 31 March 2025 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held Direct	% Held Indirect
Water and environmental resources management Limited	Finchale House, Belmont Business Park, Durham, England, DH1 1TW	Environmental consulting activities	Ordinary	100.00	

21 Cash generated from operations

	2025 £	2024 £
Deficit for the year	(6,827)	(35,221)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(1,327)	(3,496)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	8,218	7,254
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(59,868)	10,524
Increase in creditors	82,533	35,540
Cash generated from operations	22,729	14,601

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1094613

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04260195 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1094613

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FOR

WEAR RIVERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

RMT Ribchesters
Accountants and Business Advisors
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (12 month period).

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 Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Small Entities (2015) Charities SORP.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charitable objectives for which the Wear Rivers Trust (WRT) was established are:

To conserve, protect and rehabilitate and improve the landscape, rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the whole Wear catchment, Co-Durham including Weardale, the middle and lower Wear, all tributaries and adjacent estuarine and coastal areas and waters.

To advance the education of the public, or any association, company, local authority, administrative or government agency in the understanding of rivers, corridors and catchments, including their fauna, economic and social context activity, comprising river catchment management. To provide a greater understanding as to the need and benefits of conservation, protection, rehabilitation, and improvement of aquatic environments.

These objectives must be seen in the context of the global climate change emergency. WRT as part of the national Rivers Trust network, as host of the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP) is working at the local scale to support the global imperatives of both mitigating and managing the consequences of climate change. WRT promotes and delivers practical measures through the Wear Catchment Management and Action Plans to improve integrated urban and rural land, surface water and groundwater management, sequestering carbon, improving drought resilience, and reducing flood risk.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act the trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. All activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The Trust relies on volunteers to collect monitoring data, carry out practical tasks, support education activities and to develop and manage projects including through local community groups and networks. All volunteer hours are recorded and used as match funding to support funding applications.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRATEGIC REPORT
Achievement and performance
Charitable activities
Trustee and Director Succession, Contingency, Resilience and Team Structure. Partnership Working

The chair of Trustees retired, after giving 12 months' notice, at the October 2023 AGM and was succeeded by Graham Bell. Joyce Moxon also retired; Michael Siddle was confirmed to the board with another prospective Trustee appointment in process.

The Trust Director Peter Nailon announced his desire to retire in April 2023, his plan was to step down as Director in October 2023 and take up a new role of Strategic Funding Director. An interview process took place in September 2023 and Kirstie Hutchinson was successful taking on the role of Chief Operating Officer from October 2023. Kirstie Hutchinson was an internal candidate who has worked for the Trust since 2017 in the capacity of Office and Finance Manager. Peter Nailon fully retires on 30th June 2024 with Kirstie Hutchinson taking over as Chief Executive Officer.

The staff team continues to be fully home based following Covid, the Trust however as an office hub based in Bishop Auckland for staff to use for meetings or working together. This has been an important development as some staff feel isolated working from home constantly and prefer face to face meetings and working in an office environment.

Following Kirstie Hutchinson's appointment as Chief Operating Officer there has been changes made to the team structure to enable progression and development. The Trust now has four teams, Education, Project, Agriculture and Business. Each team has its own Team Leader who reports into Paul Atkinson who has been promoted to Program Manager.

There had previously been a series of challenges regarding staff turnover. To reduce this risk there have been several changes including the new team structure that includes a new support officer tier, a senior officer tier and a team leader tier. Recruitment is now focused on the support officer tier, where training is provided, and progression and development is encouraged. TOIL has also been introduced as well as the introduction of a Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative.

To further strengthen organisational structures and processes the Trust has outsourced external support to assist with the management of Information Technology security, maintenance and development, Human Resources and Health & Safety Management. This approach has made available specialist expertise not available internally from within the staff team, proved to be cost effective and has enabled the Trust to concentrate WRT resources and focus its own key organisational objectives and specialist areas of expertise.

A new Project Management Software package, Coretime has been introduced to enable the effective running of projects financially and delivery of objectives.

The Trust has also undergone a rebranding exercise to communicate change internally and externally to change negative perceptions and rebuild reputation. The new branding has incorporated the Trusts four concepts, Education and Engagement, Agriculture, River Water Quality and Biodiversity and Conservation. The rebrand also represents the growth of the Trust and uses a new tag line 'Wear Conserving'.

The Trust continues to promote partnership working, primarily through the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP). The development of Thriving Catchments (TC) represents a most significant strategic opportunity to support Northumbrian Water in the delivery of Nature Based Solutions to benefit water quality and the wider environment, leading up to and through the next OFWAT regulated Water Industry National Environment Plan (WINEP) 2025-2030 and subsequent WINEPs.

A wholly owned company Wear Environmental Resources Management (WERM) continues to be developed to deliver environmental works on a commercial rather than grant basis for the coming financial year. All profits arising will be donated to the Wear Rivers Trust.

The Trust is currently re-writing a 5-year Business plan 2025 to 2030, consolidating its purpose, values, governance & structure, aims & objectives, forecast activity and funding.

Charitable Activities

Sustainable Funding to Deliver Charitable Objectives

The recruitment of the new Chief Operating Officer has seen a change in focus to explore strategic funding for 2024 and beyond. New relationships are being developed to ensure the Trust can move forward with larger landscape projects with long-term funding opportunities.

To deliver its charitable aims and objectives WRT must achieve financial resilience, through the maintenance of core reserves in line with the Charities Commission guidelines, to be sustainable in the unpredictable, complex and competitive funding environment. The Trust is redoubling efforts to reduce dependence on project-centred funding, to build unrestricted funds, providing enhanced operational flexibility with reduced administrative costs. To do this the Trust continues to develop relationships to attract funding from the business and the wider community to support project delivery in order to reduce dependence on project specific funding. This approach remains ongoing as the Trust remains dependent upon project specific funding from a range of sources.

The Trusts core mission, values and activities are reflected across all media on a daily basis: reducing flood risk, improving water quality and drought resilience, enhancing biodiversity and working with farmers to store carbon, all whilst supporting public access and enjoyment of Nature.

The WRT website https://wear-rivers-trust.org.uk is under continual development as are WRT social media platforms to showcase Trust priorities and activity. Interactive Storymaps has given visibility of the whole Wear catchment characteristics and by individual sub catchment.

Deliverables 2023 - 2024

Wear Catchment Partnership

Funded by Defra.

The Wear Rivers Trust (WRT) has hosted the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP) since its inception in 2011. The WCP continues to develop and attract new members. The Steering Group comprises: WRT, Sunderland City Council (Chair), Environment Agency, Durham County Council, Heritage Coast Partnership, Seascapes, Durham Wildlife Trust, North Pennines AONB Partnership, Groundwork North East and Cumbria, Northumbrian Water Group, Durham University, Durham Cathedral, The Auckland Project, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, Sustainability North East and East Durham College.

The WCP exists to plan, co-ordinate and deliver integrated environmental projects, delivering multiple benefits with greatest efficiency. The WCP has also undergone a review with a survey going out to all partners with the results determining change and a series of workshops have been set for all partners to develop a new Catchment Partnership Plan for 2025-2030. The WCP is also undergoing a branding exercise and is developing a website.

Links with Nature

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Sunderland City Council.

An example of a WCP partnership project. This is a stage 2 delivery phase project, to deliver community engagement and participation around habitat creation and improvement across 13 SCC sites in the Sunderland coalfield area. SCC and Durham Wildlife Trust are the lead partners, supported by WRT. The project runs through to March 2026.

Education: General

Funded through The Tom Cowie Charitable Trust, Durham County Council and individual schools.

Catchment-wide. The education team continued to work across the catchment with specific blocks of work in several areas and ad-hoc sessions throughout the remainder of the Wear. Schemes of work and curriculum links have been developed to give schools a wider set of lesson ideas to enhance the provision delivered by WRT education officers. With the creation of WERM the education team hopes to develop and market the sessions to schools in a more joined up way with a core offer.

The Safeguarding policy was renewed, including a structured quarterly review process reporting as a standard agenda item at WRT Board meetings.

The WRT Education Team is successfully expanding activity, particularly in the target areas of the Gaunless catchment, Stanley, through the SUDS+ project and Sunderland, but also including other areas across the catchment.

Education: Gaunless. Fun and Food

Funded by the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership.

Fun and Food is a fund managed by Durham County Council to provide school holiday activities and food. The aim of the fund is to reduce holiday hunger and targets children on free school meals. Our education team has worked with The Auckland Project and Shildon Alive to hold sessions in the Gaunless catchment during three school holidays. Parents and children have enjoyed the mix of crafts, games and toasted marshmallows. Comments attached to our feedback tree have been excellent with many children attending each holiday.

Education: Gaunless. John Muir Award

Funded by Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership, Wellesley Trust, Willan Trust, Gaunless Gateway.

Funding is in place to deliver the John Muir Award where learners explore nature, take action to conserve/enhance and to reflect on the experience. Schools chose from a menu of options across 5 day programmes.

Education: Sunderland River Schools

Funded by The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust.

The Sept 2022 to July 2023 programme was expanded to 12 schools all receiving the in-school introductory session and Harehope day in Weardale with 7 of the schools participating in the wild oyster project on the coast. The Sept 2023 to July 2024 programme had further expansion to include 14 schools, participating in the full programme with rock pooling replacing the oyster project which is now complete. The expansion of the programme year on year with excellent feedback from the schools are key indicators of success.

Education: Stanley SuDS+

Funded by the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme via Durham County Council.

Engagement through schools and through the students, their families, is a key route to engage the wider community around opportunities to manage water across the local landscape. See below.

Stanley SuDS+

Funded by the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme via Durham County Council.

This was the third year of a multi-year project running until March 2027. The aim is to develop an innovative community-based approach toward the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) installations into a host community and measuring community benefit from the SuDS. At the end of the project a template will be developed with the potential for national application. . WRT's role in the project is to engage the community with the location design and long-term maintenance of structures. This outcome is being achieved through the facilitation of information and consultation events, liaising between technical specialists and local business and community stakeholders. The profile of SuDS and the wider water environment is being raised through specialist River School education sessions with local primary and secondary schools, together with the delivery of habitat improvements, with a core flood management theme delivered by volunteers in the Stanley Burn headwaters. See Home - SuDS (stanleysuds.co.uk)

Weardale Abandoned Metal Mines (WAMM) Containment of contaminated sediments from historic metal mines

Funded by The Coal Authority.

WRT continues to support the Coal Authority in monitoring discharges from Cambokeels and to inspect and maintain existing pollution containment installations in the Killhope and Middlehope catchments. The Trust has completed feasibility studies examining ingress of surface water to Park Level mine at Killhope and Sharnberry Mine impacting Euden Beck and Bedburn and continues to support monitoring along Rookhope Burn. Further details can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/metal-mine-water-pollution-investigations-in-the-river-wear-catchment/river-wear-catchment-metal-mine-water-pollution-investigations

Agricultural Land Management: General

Funded by various funders.

The management of agricultural land continues to be a key Trust priority. Agricultural soils cover 70% of England's land area. Soil structure and soil health are critical in the effective management of ecosystem services, including carbon capture and storage, biodiversity protection and enhancement, flood risk, drought resilience and water quality.

WEIF Old Durham Beck

Funded by the Environment Agency.

This WEIF project comprises one phase of the restoration of Old Durham Beck, focussing on land management and the ecosystem services available through improved soil health, benefitting biodiversity, water quality, flood risk and drought resilience. A continuation WEIF bid will also be developed for 2024-25, to address multiple barriers to fish passage. These barriers were identified throughout the Old Durham Beck system through the Jeroen Tummers Durham University PhD study, supervised by Martyn Lucas, which is informing a current EA WFD data and status review.

WEIF Soils Implementation

Funded by the Environment Agency.

The management of agricultural soils is recognised as the single most critical factor impacting a range of ecosystem services, including water quality, as defined through the Water Framework Directive (WFD). This project presents an opportunity to build on existing farmer networks developed through previous WEIF projects and Northumbria Water's Browney Phosphate Reduction project, delivered over the last around 8 years.

This project focuses on two WFD waterbodies: Smallhope Burn from Source to Browney and Houselop Beck from Source to Wear. Both of these waterbodies have probable or confirmed RNAGS relating to agriculture

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Funded by Durham County Council

An LNRS is a way of prioritising nature's needs on a more local and focused level. The strategy is a blueprint for the recovery of nature, showing how and where we can support things like wildflower grasslands, woodlands, wetlands, and new hedgerows across County Durham.

The LNRS will be used to guide and focus funding from a variety of sources, including the government's Biodiversity Net Gain policy, Environmental Land Management schemes (ELM), alongside other potential cross-sector and private funding opportunities such as those for woodland creation, natural flood management, and species projects. WRT are heading up the subgroups Rivers and Running Waters and Wetlands, to establish priorities, measures and mapping.

Weardale Farmer Facilitation Group

Funded by DEFRA.

In partnership with the North Pennines AONB Partnership the facilitation group provides a forum for farmer discussion with expert speakers. This initiative aims to influence the adoption of best practice on topics including Natural Flood Management, Rotational Grazing, Mapping habitat connectivity, Soil Health, Pasture Management for Waders, Trees on Farms, Public Goods & ELMs.

Natural Flood Management (NFM) and Erosion Control

Funded by Durham County Council (DCC) and Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

DCC commissioned the Trust to investigate flood risk options and make recommendations for mitigation actions to reduce flood risk from the Hedleyhope Burn around Esh Winning and at locations in Weardale, mainly around highway flooding.

Tree Planting

Funded by North East Community Forest

By planting trees and bringing woodlands back into use for both people and wildlife it provides new opportunities for leisure, recreation, and cultural activities, enhancing biodiversity, helping us become more resilient to climate change and improving education and healthy lives.

Wear Invasive Non-Native Species (WINNS) Project

Funding: Postcode Local, Durham University, NWG Branchout, Durham Cathedral, City of Durham Parish Council, Durham Wildlife Trust, Durham Area Action Partnership

WRT continues to engage at the regional level, coordinating activity with other Rivers Trusts from the Tweed to the Tees. Active management in the Wear catchment continues to be concentrated on existing priority areas across the catchment, particularly in the catchment headwaters in Upper Weardale. The Browney and Gaunless are also priority catchments aligned with wider farm and habitat improvement. Invasives management is also a powerful community engagement driver for the Stanley SuDS project.

Pittington Beck in the upper Old Durham Beck system has been identified as the source of Giant Hogweed, supplying seed for infestation into the Durham Peninsula World Heritage Site and downstream, all the way to Sunderland. The Trust continues to work with local landowners to treat the source areas, with significant and ongoing support from a range of funders.

The Durham Peninsula has become an important focus for invasives management, improving riverbank access and amenity in this iconic landscape, supporting the proposed extension of the World Heritage Site. WRT is working with, and between, the holdings of the main peninsula landowners and WCP partners: Durham Cathedral, University and County Council. Other local partners include the City of Durham Parish Council, City of Durham Trust, plus rowing, angling and community clubs and groups, which together form an important community of interest. This community of interest is extending the measurement and management of plastics pollution from the World Heritage Site and downstream. A proposal to design and implement a barrier in Durham City to intercept and extract plastics is under development.

Thriving Catchments

Funded by Northumbrian Water Group (NWG) and The Rivers Trust (RT).

Thriving Catchments is an exciting strategic partnership between Northumbrian Water and The Rivers Trust.

Previously known as the North East Catchments Hub, Thriving Catchments is an exciting and innovative new approach where wastewater treatment investment is achieved using natural and catchment based solutions. These catchment and nature-based solutions deliver multiple benefits, helping to deliver better outcomes to water quality while also improving biodiversity for the benefit of nature and local communities.

This work is being delivered over four phases, and we're currently in phase two of the project. This phase, which commenced in September 2023 and will run until March 2025, will support the development of our proposals for catchment activity, while building regional capacity and capabilities for delivering these exciting projects in the North East. To achieve this, we will coordinate and lead on catchment activities over 50 waterbodies including the Till & Tweed, Northumberland Rivers, Wear and Tees management catchments. This will support our work towards achieving Water Framework Directive (WFD) 'Good' Status for phosphate and nutrient neutrality, including managing collaborative delivery of improvements and interventions.

Delivery activities will be led by Northumbrian Water and the Rivers Trust, with support and collaboration with key stakeholders such as the Tees, Tyne and Wear Rivers Trusts and the Durham Wildlife Trust. Engagement with regional and stakeholders at all levels through our activities will be a key component of phase two with the aim of developing strong collaborative approaches and participatory community engagement, supporting our catchment and environmental partnerships strategy within the region.

Bluespaces Cut Throat Dene

Funded by Northumbrian Water Group (NWG), Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council.

This project will engage with local individuals, community groups and local Sunderland and South Tyneside schools to publicise the potential of CTD, as a "green lung" for the area. Through using the CTD environment as an educational resource, it will help raise publicity awareness of the connectivity and importance of terrestrial, river and marine plastic pollution. Volunteering opportunities will be provided including building leaky dams, stream litter clearances, and Himalayan Balsam control, working through local schools and community groups e.g., Boldon Forum.

Bluespaces Hummerback and Gaunless

Funded by Northumbrian Water Group (NWG) and Gaunless Gateway.

This partnership project will have a primary focus of complementing baseline water quality improvements through land management interventions. The Hummer Beck catchment is one of the most intensively farmed areas within the Wear and there is some evidence of over-grazing and lack of bankside management. Fencing is limited or in poor condition. Fly-tipping and agricultural pollution / weak land management is recorded throughout the catchment (see supporting documents).

A FACTS and BASIS qualified Farm Advisor will build on existing relationships in the catchment, engaging in technical discussions around arable and grassland management and identifying opportunities to improve soil health and water infiltration, reducing silt transport to watercourses, increasing drought resilience, and mitigating downstream flood risk. Opportunities for volunteer scale habitat improvement opportunities will be identified to interrupt run-off and to stabilise riverbanks. Liaison with Catchment Sensitive Farming and future WEIF proposal to EA could support larger scale capital interventions, potentially around farm infrastructure.

Bluespaces South Burn River Restoration

Funded by Northumbrian Water Group (NWG) and Durham County Council (DCC).

Habitat and access improvements, including infrastructure repair, Invasives mapping and management, tree management, erosion control, pond maintenance across Daisy Hill Local Nature: https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/3991/Daisy-Hill-Nature-Reserve/pdf/DaisyHillNatureReserve.pdf?m=636735641876570000
and Waldridge Fell SSSI Site: https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/3920/Waldridge-Fell-Country-Park/pdf/WaldridgeFellCountryPark.pdf?m=636735642785570000

WERM: Northern Lithium

WRT provide a monthly service to Northern Lithium to monitor surface water and groundwater to establish a baseline to inform any application which may be made to extract Lithium from groundwater in Weardale.

Financial review
Financial position
Incoming resources for the year (12 month period) were £579,839 (2023: £484,188). Total reserves for the year £118,981 (2023: £154,202).

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to 6 months average expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves was not achieved at the year end. Post year end new funding streams have been secured and a full review of cash has been undertaken. The trustees are confident that the reserves policy will be met by 31 March 2025.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT
Governing document
The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure
The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The charity was established in 2010 under a Memorandum of Association which defines its objects and powers and is governed by its Articles of Association.

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

Dr Martyn C Lucas
Mr Neil Ashforth
Ms Joyce Moxon
Mr George Gerring
Mr David Hutchinson
Mr Graham Andrew Bell
Mr Dan Britton
Mr Hamish John Carter

The charity is governed by the Trustees who are recruited based on their expertise and are local community activists. Trustees are appointed by board resolution. Trustees meet on a regular, basis to oversee Trust governance, project development and delivery, financial management and any other issues of importance to ensure progress is made in line with the organisation's aims and objectives.

None of the Trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 each in the event of a winding up.

Trustees continually assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed. They are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The Wear Rivers Trust is reviewing the governance file comprising all relevant policies and procedures. Internal risks are minimised by the separation of duties with authorisation procedures in place for all transactions.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
04260195 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1094613

Registered office
Ground Floor
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Trustees
N Ashforth
G W J Gerring (resigned 25/10/2023)
Ms J Moxon (resigned 25/10/2023)
D Hutchinson
G A Bell
D Britton
H J Carter (resigned 23/10/2024)
T Fearherstone (appointed 25/10/2023)
K Lawson (appointed 23/10/2024)
M T Siddle (appointed 31/1/2024)

Company Secretary
N Ashforth

Independent Examiner
David Holloway BA (Hons) FCA DChA
RMT Ribchesters
Accountants and Business Advisors
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on ...7/12/2024..... and signed on the board's behalf by:

Neil Ashforth
.....
N Ashforth - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEAR RIVERS TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 04260195)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Wear Rivers Trust ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

David Holloway BA (Hons) FCA DChA

RMT Ribchesters
Accountants and Business Advisors
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Date: 18th December 2024

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	31,962	-	31,962	30,436
Charitable activities	4				
Conservation and Protection		26,691	517,690	544,381	452,457
Investment income	3	3,496	-	3,496	1,295
Total		62,149	517,690	579,839	484,188
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	5				
Conservation and Protection		89,668	525,392	615,060	544,032
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(27,519)	(7,702)	(35,221)	(59,844)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		74,436	79,766	154,202	214,046
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		46,917	72,064	118,981	154,202

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	11	21,308	-	21,308	19,552
Investments	12	1	-	1	1
		21,309	-	21,309	19,553
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	14,248	107,596	121,844	132,368
Cash at bank		13,849	10,388	24,237	15,150
		28,097	117,984	146,081	147,518
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(2,490)	(45,919)	(48,409)	(12,869)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		25,607	72,065	97,672	134,649
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		46,916	72,065	118,981	154,202
NET ASSETS		46,916	72,065	118,981	154,202
FUNDS	15				
Unrestricted funds				46,916	74,436
Restricted funds				72,065	79,766
TOTAL FUNDS				118,981	154,202

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17/12/2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Neil Ashforth
N Ashforth - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	14,601	(95,292)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		14,601	(95,292)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(9,940)	(12,015)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		-	(1)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		930	-
Interest received		3,496	1,295
Net cash used in investing activities		(5,514)	(10,721)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		9,087	(106,013)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		15,150	121,163
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		24,237	15,150

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(35,221)	(59,844)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	7,255	5,069
Interest received	(3,496)	(1,295)
Rounding	-	2
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	10,524	(12,626)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	35,539	(26,598)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	14,601	(95,292)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	15,150	9,087	24,237
	15,150	9,087	24,237
Total	15,150	9,087	24,237

The notes form part of these financial statements

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

Income
All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be qualified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

- Investment income is recognised when receivable.

- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration for its performance.

- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional or related to the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

- Sponsorship income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities on the date of receipt.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as the liability is incurred. Expenditure includes irrecoverable input VAT, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

- Other expenditure includes those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity

- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 25% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 10% on cost

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Going concern
The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. The trustees have considered the financial position and performance of the charity including a review of future cash flows. They are confident that the charity is in a position to meet its commitments from those cash flows. They have therefore adopted the going concern principle.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	31,962	30,436

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest receivable	3,496	1,295

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024 Conservation and Protection	2023 Total activities
	£	£
Grants	544,381	452,457

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
The Environment Agency	102,582	104,444
Durham County Council	199,342	163,302
Northumbrian Water Group Limited	116,144	30,496
The Rivers Trust	4,548	49,186
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	14,965	14,965
North Pennines AONB Partnership	31,957	13,555
Innovate	10,736	-
The Coal Authority	26,691	25,551
Other	37,416	50,956
	544,381	452,456

continued...

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 6)	Totals
	£	£	£
Conservation and Protection	517,436	97,624	615,060

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Conservation and Protection	95,344	2,280	97,624

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent Examiners Fee	2,280	2,110
Depreciation - owned assets	7,254	5,071

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

9. STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	327,841	323,700
Social security costs	33,766	31,313
Other pension costs	21,217	21,241
	382,824	376,254

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Average number of Staff	15	15

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2024	2023
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-

continued...

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	30,436	-	30,436
Charitable activities			
Conservation and Protection	174,208	278,249	452,457
Investment income	1,295	-	1,295
Total	205,939	278,249	484,188
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Conservation and Protection	178,266	365,766	544,032
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	27,673	(87,517)	(59,844)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	46,764	167,282	214,046
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	74,437	79,765	154,202

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2023	28,424	2,690	31,114
Additions	8,955	985	9,940
Disposals	(4,493)	-	(4,493)
At 31 March 2024	32,886	3,675	36,561
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2023	11,083	479	11,562
Charge for year	6,941	313	7,254
Eliminated on disposal	(3,563)	-	(3,563)
At 31 March 2024	14,461	792	15,253
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2024	18,425	2,883	21,308
At 31 March 2023	17,341	2,211	19,552

continued...

12. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Unlisted investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	1
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	1
At 31 March 2023	1

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

Water and Environmental Resources Management Limited
Registered office: Finchale House, Belmont Business Park, Durham, England, DH1 1TW
Nature of business: Environmental consulting

Class of share:	% holding
Ordinary	100

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	40,202	58,466
Amounts owed by group undertakings	12,852	443
Prepayments and accrued income	68,790	73,459
	121,844	132,368

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	17,952	3,680
Social security and other taxes	27,967	6,699
Accruals and deferred income	2,490	2,490
	48,409	12,869

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	74,436	(27,520)	-	46,916
Restricted funds				
Education and Riverfly	1,660	(1,660)	-	-
Weardale Natural Flood Management	6,188	(6,188)	-	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	5,251	346	-	5,597
Cool Waters	6,084	(5,411)	-	673
Sunderland City Council	3,538	-	(3,538)	-
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	17,546	(17,546)	-	-
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	3,174	(2,658)	-	516
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering Project	5,365	(4,704)	-	661
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	1,654	(1,311)	-	343
RT NWL Partnership	-	1,694	-	1,694
Chester Le Street AAP	5,889	(634)	-	5,255
Citizen Science and Riverfly	201	(197)	-	4
NWL Blue Space - Old Durham Beck	14,271	(8,218)	-	6,053
DWT/ SCC Linked Together	56	(3,291)	3,538	303
Weardale FFF	128	1,549	-	1,677
Fun & Food	2,361	(2,361)	-	-
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	6,400	(4,932)	-	1,468
WEIF Soils EA	-	1	-	1
Bluespaces NWL - South Burn	-	3,451	-	3,451
Bluespaces NWL - Cut Throat Dene	-	13,550	-	13,550
Priority Habits NWL - Beechburn	-	23,716	-	23,716
Bluespaces NWL - Hummerbeck and Gaunless	-	6,784	-	6,784
Volunteering and Engagement	-	319	-	319
	79,766	(7,701)	-	72,065
TOTAL FUNDS	154,202	(35,221)	-	118,981

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	62,149	(89,669)	(27,520)
Restricted funds			
Education and Riverfly	-	(1,660)	(1,660)
Weardale Natural Flood Management	-	(6,188)	(6,188)
CaBa	15,000	(15,000)	-
Carbon Connects	14,965	(14,965)	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	32,349	(32,003)	346
Cool Waters	2,663	(8,074)	(5,411)
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	(17,546)	(17,546)
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	113,612	(116,270)	(2,658)
Weardale MSO	31,957	(31,957)	-
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering Project	-	(4,704)	(4,704)
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	20,084	(21,395)	(1,311)
RT NWL Partnership	26,902	(25,208)	1,694
Chester Le Street AAP	-	(634)	(634)
Citizen Science and Riverfly	4,548	(4,745)	(197)
NWL Blue Space - Old Durham Beck	6,700	(14,918)	(8,218)
DWT/ SCC Linked Together	17,332	(20,623)	(3,291)
Weardale FFF	7,427	(5,878)	1,549
NWL Blackdene	4,852	(4,852)	-
Fun & Food	21,952	(24,313)	(2,361)
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	16,001	(20,933)	(4,932)
WEIF Soils EA	25,409	(25,408)	1
WEIF Old Durham Beck EA	29,511	(29,511)	-
Bluespaces NWL - South Burn	10,000	(6,549)	3,451
Bluespaces NWL - Cut Throat Dene	23,500	(9,950)	13,550
Priority Habits NWL - Beechburn	30,000	(6,284)	23,716
Bluespaces NWL - Hummerbeck and Gaunless	14,190	(7,406)	6,784
Innovate - Agri Plastics	10,736	(10,736)	-
Volunteering and Engagement	8,000	(7,681)	319
WEIF Beechburn Beckons	30,000	(30,000)	-
	517,690	(525,391)	(7,701)
TOTAL FUNDS	579,839	(615,060)	(35,221)

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	46,764	27,672	74,436
Restricted funds			
Education and Riverfly	23,241	(21,581)	1,660
Metal Mines	2,840	(2,840)	-
Weardale Natural Flood Management	5,747	441	6,188
CaBa	305	(305)	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	13,288	(8,037)	5,251
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	12,012	(12,012)	-
Cool Waters	40,782	(34,698)	6,084
Metal Mines Cambokeels	1,117	(1,117)	-
Sunderland City Council	3,693	(155)	3,538
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	37,558	(20,012)	17,546
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	431	(431)	-
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	1,725	(1,725)	-
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	62	(62)	-
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	16,438	(13,264)	3,174
Weardale MSO	6,699	(6,699)	-
NWL Browney Access	1,344	(1,344)	-
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering Project	-	5,365	5,365
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	-	1,654	1,654
Chester Le Street AAP	-	5,889	5,889
Citizen Science and Riverfly	-	201	201
NWL Blue Space - Old Durham Beck	-	14,271	14,271
DWT/ SCC Linked Together	-	56	56
Weardale FFF	-	128	128
Fun & Food	-	2,361	2,361
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	-	6,400	6,400
	167,282	(87,516)	79,766
TOTAL FUNDS	214,046	(59,844)	154,202

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	205,938	(178,266)	27,672
Restricted funds			
Education and Riverfly	2,277	(23,858)	(21,581)
Metal Mines	-	(2,840)	(2,840)
Weardale Natural Flood Management	5,255	(4,814)	441
CaBa	15,000	(15,305)	(305)
Carbon Connects	14,965	(14,965)	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	24,979	(33,016)	(8,037)
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	-	(12,012)	(12,012)
Cool Waters	4	(34,702)	(34,698)
Metal Mines Cambokeels	-	(1,117)	(1,117)
Sunderland City Council	-	(155)	(155)
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	(20,012)	(20,012)
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	-	(431)	(431)
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	-	(1,725)	(1,725)
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	-	(62)	(62)
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	130,147	(143,411)	(13,264)
Weardale MSO	-	(6,699)	(6,699)
NWL Browney Access	-	(1,344)	(1,344)
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering Project	5,750	(385)	5,365
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	16,999	(15,345)	1,654
Chester Le Street AAP	6,000	(111)	5,889
Citizen Science and Riverfly	5,089	(4,888)	201
NWL Blue Space - Old Durham Beck	25,000	(10,729)	14,271
DWT/ SCC Linked Together	11,506	(11,450)	56
Weardale FFF	1,156	(1,028)	128
Fun & Food	7,723	(5,362)	2,361
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	6,400	-	6,400
	278,250	(365,766)	(87,516)
TOTAL FUNDS	484,188	(544,032)	(59,844)

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	46,764	152	-	46,916
Restricted funds				
Education and Riverfly	23,241	(23,241)	-	-
Metal Mines	2,840	(2,840)	-	-
Weardale Natural Flood Management	5,747	(5,747)	-	-
CaBa	305	(305)	-	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	13,288	(7,691)	-	5,597
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	12,012	(12,012)	-	-
Cool Waters	40,782	(40,109)	-	673
Metal Mines Cambokeels	1,117	(1,117)	-	-
Sunderland City Council	3,693	(155)	(3,538)	-
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	37,558	(37,558)	-	-
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	431	(431)	-	-
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	1,725	(1,725)	-	-
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	62	(62)	-	-
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	16,438	(15,922)	-	516
Weardale MSO	6,699	(6,699)	-	-
NWL Browney Access	1,344	(1,344)	-	-
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering Project	-	661	-	661
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	-	343	-	343
RT NWL Partnership	-	1,694	-	1,694
Chester Le Street AAP	-	5,255	-	5,255
Citizen Science and Riverfly	-	4	-	4
NWL Blue Space - Old Durham Beck	-	6,053	-	6,053
DWT/ SCC Linked Together	-	(3,235)	3,538	303
Weardale FFF	-	1,677	-	1,677
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	-	1,468	-	1,468
WEIF Soils EA	-	1	-	1
Bluespaces NWL - South Burn	-	3,451	-	3,451
Bluespaces NWL - Cut Throat Dene	-	13,550	-	13,550
Priority Habits NWL - Beechburn	-	23,716	-	23,716
Bluespaces NWL - Hummerbeck and Gaunless	-	6,784	-	6,784
Volunteering and Engagement	-	319	-	319
	167,282	(95,217)	-	72,065
TOTAL FUNDS	214,046	(95,065)	-	118,981

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	268,087	(267,935)	152
Restricted funds			
Education and Riverfly	2,277	(25,518)	(23,241)
Metal Mines	-	(2,840)	(2,840)
Weardale Natural Flood Management	5,255	(11,002)	(5,747)
CaBa	30,000	(30,305)	(305)
Carbon Connects	29,930	(29,930)	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	57,328	(65,019)	(7,691)
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	-	(12,012)	(12,012)
Cool Waters	2,667	(42,776)	(40,109)
Metal Mines Cambokeels	-	(1,117)	(1,117)
Sunderland City Council	-	(155)	(155)
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	(37,558)	(37,558)
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	-	(431)	(431)
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	-	(1,725)	(1,725)
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	-	(62)	(62)
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	243,759	(259,681)	(15,922)
Weardale MSO	31,957	(38,656)	(6,699)
NWL Browney Access	-	(1,344)	(1,344)
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering Project	5,750	(5,089)	661
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	37,083	(36,740)	343
RT NWL Partnership	26,902	(25,208)	1,694
Chester Le Street AAP	6,000	(745)	5,255
Citizen Science and Riverfly	9,637	(9,633)	4
NWL Blue Space - Old Durham Beck	31,700	(25,647)	6,053
DWT/ SCC Linked Together	28,838	(32,073)	(3,235)
Weardale FFF	8,583	(6,906)	1,677
NWL Blackdene	4,852	(4,852)	-
Fun & Food	29,675	(29,675)	-
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	22,401	(20,933)	1,468
WEIF Soils EA	25,409	(25,408)	1
WEIF Old Durham Beck EA	29,511	(29,511)	-
Bluespaces NWL - South Burn	10,000	(6,549)	3,451
Bluespaces NWL - Cut Throat Dene	23,500	(9,950)	13,550
Priority Habits NWL - Beechburn	30,000	(6,284)	23,716
Bluespaces NWL - Hummerbeck and Gaunless	14,190	(7,406)	6,784
Innovate - Agri Plastics	10,736	(10,736)	-
Volunteering and Engagement	8,000	(7,681)	319
WEIF Beechburn Beckons	30,000	(30,000)	-
	795,940	(891,157)	(95,217)
TOTAL FUNDS	1,064,027	(1,159,092)	(95,065)

continued...

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1094613

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04260195 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1094613

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FOR

WEAR RIVERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Ribchesters
Chartered Accountants
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (12 month period).

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 Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Small Entities (2015) Charities SORP.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charitable objectives for which the Wear Rivers Trust (WRT) was established are:

To conserve, protect and rehabilitate and improve the landscape, rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the whole Wear catchment, Co-Durham including Weardale, the middle and lower Wear, all tributaries and adjacent estuarine and coastal areas and waters.

To advance the education of the public, or any association, company, local authority, administrative or government agency in the understanding of rivers, corridors and catchments, including their fauna, economic and social context activity, comprising river catchment management. To provide a greater understanding as to the need and benefits of conservation, protection, rehabilitation, and improvement of aquatic environments.

These objectives must be seen in the context of the global climate change emergency. WRT as part of the national Rivers Trust network, as host of the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP) is working at the local scale to support the global imperatives of both mitigating and managing the consequences of climate change. WRT promotes and delivers practical measures through the Wear Catchment Management and Action Plans to improve integrated urban and rural land, surface water and groundwater management, sequestering carbon, improving drought resilience, and reducing flood risk.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act the trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. All activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The Trust relies on volunteers to collect monitoring data, carry out practical tasks, support education activities and to develop and manage projects including through local community groups and networks. All volunteer hours are recorded and used as match funding to support funding applications.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

Trustee and Director Succession, Contingency, Resilience and Team Structure. Partnership Working

The chair of Trustees retired, after giving 12 months' notice, at the October 2022 AGM and was succeeded by the deputy chair in an acting capacity. A permanent chair will be appointed from the board of Trustees in the next financial year. One additional Trustee was confirmed to the board with another prospective Trustee appointment in process.

The Trust Director, an original Trustee 2008-2011 and in post since 2011 is approaching retirement age. Discussions on what Succession could look like began April/May 2022 and are continuing beyond the year end. It is planned that an approach to Succession and a process will be defined and confirmed during 2023-24 and implemented at the appropriate time. The appointment of a successor Director is clearly a key appointment to the Trust, with preparations with contingency planning made well in advance.

The staff team continues to be fully home based after the South Church office was given up in August 2020 during Covid. Whilst the convenience of home-based working is popular with staff every effort continues to be made to meet regularly in person and virtually to maintain personal contact. This is especially important given the relatively high proportion of new members of Staff.

An approach was implemented to support and mentor less experienced staff including some recruited from outside the environmental sector, by established staff, and to support the effective co-ordination of project delivery and reporting. The intention had been to develop this approach into a revised team structure to provide more consistent project visibility and support; to strengthen planned contingency to cover routine or unplanned Director absence and to free capacity to further develop Strategy and Business Planning.

A series of challenges around this approach were met resulting in some staff turnover, including newer non-environmental-sector staff. These challenges resulted in the more formalised introduction of a WRT Leadership Team, comprising the Director and Projects, Education and Administration team heads. This approach is designed to delegate responsibility more effectively through the staff team, providing leadership contingency and building resilience. The re-adoption of a physical office to provide a central rallying point is under active consideration.

To further strengthen organisational structures and processes the Trust has outsourced external support to assist with the management of Information Technology security, maintenance and development, Human Resources and Health & Safety Management. This approach has made available specialist expertise not available internally from within the staff team, proved to be cost effective and has enabled the Trust to concentrate WRT resources and focus its own key organisational objectives and specialist areas of expertise.

The Trust continues to promote partnership working, primarily through the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP). The development of the North East Catchment Hub (NECH) represents a most significant strategic opportunity to support Northumbrian Water in the delivery of Nature Based Solutions to benefit water quality and the wider environment, leading up to and through the next OFWAT regulated Water Industry National Environment Plan (WINEP) 2025-2030 and subsequent WINEPs

A wholly owned company Wear Environmental Resources Management (WERM) has been established to deliver environmental works on a commercial rather than grant basis for the coming financial year. All profits arising will be donated to the Wear Rivers Trust.
The Trust has consolidated its purpose, values, governance & structure, aims & objectives, forecast activity and funding into a rolling 3 year business plan: April 2023 to March 2026. This plan will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect forecast activity, funding and cash flow over the next 3 year period.

Charitable Activities

Sustainable Funding to Deliver Charitable Objectives

To deliver its charitable aims and objectives WRT must achieve financial resilience, through the maintenance of core reserves in line with the Charities Commission guidelines, to be sustainable in the unpredictable, complex and competitive funding environment. The Trust is redoubling efforts to reduce dependence on project-centred funding, to build unrestricted funds, providing enhanced operational flexibility with reduced administrative costs. To do this the Trust is continues to develop relationships to attract funding from the business and the wider community to support project delivery in order to reduce dependence on project specific funding. This approach remains ongoing as the Trust remains dependent upon project specific funding from a range of sources.

The Trusts core mission, values and activities are reflected across all media on a daily basis: reducing flood risk, improving water quality and drought resilience, enhancing biodiversity and working with farmers to store carbon, all whilst supporting public access and enjoyment of Nature.

The Trust is engaging with business through Welcome | Northeastshare and other networks, offering definitive benefits to partners supporting our work enabling businesses to be associated with environmental improvements and demonstrate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) through an effective Environmental Social Governance (ESG) policy. The Trust will enable businesses to demonstrate genuine environmental credentials to potential customers, employees and wider stakeholders, including shareholders.

The WRT website https://wear-rivers-trust.org.uk is under continual development as are WRT social media platforms to showcase Trust priorities and activity. Interactive Storymaps has given visibility of the whole Wear catchment characteristics and by individual sub catchment.

The rolling Business Plan 2023-2026 sets out the Trust's strategy and forecast funding to deliver our stated objectives.

Deliverables 2022 - 2023

Wear Catchment Partnership

Funded by Defra.

The Wear Rivers Trust (WRT) has hosted the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP) since its inception in 2011. The WCP continues to develop and attract new members. The Steering Group comprises: WRT, Sunderland City Council (Chair), Environment Agency, Durham County Council, Heritage Coast Partnership, Seascapes, Durham Wildlife Trust, North Pennines AONB Partnership, Groundwork North East and Cumbria, Northumbrian Water Group, Durham University, Durham Cathedral, The Auckland Project, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, Sustainability North East and East Durham College.

The WCP exists to plan, co-ordinate and deliver integrated environmental projects, delivering multiple benefits with greatest efficiency. A Wear Catchment Action Plan has been developed and adopted by the WCP to better co-ordinate the development and delivery of partnership projects. The WCP is referenced in many of the projects delivered and developed during 2022/23. The Partnership remains a key strategic priority for WRT to achieve its charitable objectives most effectively by identifying and working on common priorities with a diverse range of partners.

Link Together Development Project

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Sunderland City Council

An example of a WCP partnership project. This is a stage 1 development phase project, working toward a c£2m stage 2 delivery phase application to NHLF next financial year to deliver community engagement and participation around habitat creation and improvement across 13 SCC sites in the Sunderland coalfield area. SCC and Durham Wildlife Trust are the lead partners, supported by WRT.

Education: General

Funded through the Postcode Lottery and individual schools.

Catchment-wide. The education team continued to work across the catchment with specific blocks of work in several areas and ad-hoc sessions throughout the remainder of the Wear. Schemes of work and curriculum links have been developed to give schools a wider set of lesson ideas to enhance the provision delivered by WRT education officers. With the creation of WERM the education team hopes to develop and market the sessions to schools in a more joined up way with a core offer.

The Safeguarding policy was renewed, including a structured quarterly review process reporting as a standard agenda item at WRT Board meetings.

The WRT Education Team is successfully expanding activity, particularly in the target areas of the Gaunless catchment, Stanley, through the SUDS+ project and Sunderland, but also including other areas across the catchment.

Education: Gaunless. Fun and Food

Funded by the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership.

Fun and Food is a fund managed by Durham County Council to provide school holiday activities and food. The aim of the fund is to reduce holiday hunger and targets children on free school meals. Our education team has worked with The Auckland Project and Shildon Alive to hold sessions in the Gaunless catchment during three school holidays. Parents and children have enjoyed the mix of crafts, games and toasted marshmallows. Comments attached to our feedback tree have been excellent with many children attending each holiday.

Education: Gaunless. John Muir Award

Funded by Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership, Wellesley Trust, Willan Trust, Gaunless Gateway.
Funding is in place March 2023 for next financial year to deliver the John Muir Award where learners explore nature, take action to conserve/enhance and to reflect on the experience. Schools chose from a menu of options across 5 day programmes.

Education: Sunderland River Schools

Funded by The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust

School years do not run concurrently with financial years. The programme Sept 2021 to July 2022 comprised 10 schools receiving an in-school water environment introductory session followed by a hands-on practical day at Harehope Quarry, Weardale. Two of the ten schools spent a comparative day on the Wear in Sunderland, combined with a creative media and arts session, producing an animation incorporating the work of both schools. The Sept 2022 to July 2023 programme was expanded to 12 schools all receiving the in-school introductory session and Harehope day in Weardale with 7 of the schools participating in the wild oyster project on the coast. The Sept 2023 to July 2024 programme has been agreed with a further expansion to include 14 schools, participating in the full programme with rock pooling replacing the oyster project which is now complete. The expansion of the programme year on year with excellent feedback from the schools are key indicators of success.

Education: Stanley SuDS+

Funded by the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme via Durham County Council.
Engagement through schools and through the students, their families, is a key route to engage the wider community around opportunities to manage water across the local landscape. See below.

Stanley SuDS+

Funded by the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme via Durham County Council

This was the second year of a multi-year project running until March 2027. The aim is to develop an innovative community based approach toward the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) installations into a host community and measuring community benefit from the SuDS. At the end of the project a template will be developed with the potential for national application. . WRT's role in the project is to engage the community with the location design and long term maintenance of structures. This outcome is being achieved through the facilitation of information and consultation events, liaising between technical specialists and local business and community stakeholders. The profile of SuDS and the wider water environment is being raised through specialist River School education sessions with local primary and secondary schools, together with the delivery of habitat improvements, with a core flood management theme delivered by volunteers in the Stanley Burn headwaters. See Home - SuDS (stanleysuds.co.uk)

Weardale Abandoned Metal Mines (WAMM) Containment of contaminated sediments from historic metal mines

Funded by The Coal Authority

WRT continues to support the Coal Authority in monitoring discharges from Cambokeels and to inspect and maintain existing pollution containment installations in the Killhope and Middlehope catchments. The Trust has completed feasibility studies examining ingress of surface water to Park Level mine at Killhope and Sharnberry Mine impacting Euden Beck and Bedburn and continues to support monitoring along Rookhope Burn. Further details can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/metal-mine-water-pollution-investigations-in-the-river-wear-catchment/river-wear-catchment-metal-mine-water-pollution-investigations

Agricultural Land Management: General

Funded by various funders. See below.

The management of agricultural land continues to be a key Trust priority. Agricultural soils cover 70% of England's land area. Soil structure and soil health are critical in the effective management of ecosystem services, including carbon capture and storage, biodiversity protection and enhancement, flood risk, drought resilience and water quality

Browney Natural Capital Project

Funded by the Environment Agency

The third year of a 3 three year project was delivered 2022-23 This project is primarily focused on farm visits to identify sources and pathways for agricultural diffuse pollution, particularly phosphate and to identify and implement agreed mitigation measures. Water quality monitoring for phosphates on watercourses downstream of participating farms is an additional element. Ancillary activity includes identification and treatments of INNS and other habitat improvement opportunities eg tree planting and in-channel works. This project is aligned with and supports the development of the North East Catchment Hub. See below.

River Gaunless Reconnected 2

Funded by the Environment Agency

This continuation project continued to work with farmers to address diffuse agricultural pollution through the delivery of farm assessments and actions to mitigate farm pollution, particularly through the interception of run-off pathways from farm infrastructure and soils to watercourses. Opportunities were identified via farm assessments to deliver habitat improvements through tree planting and invasives species management, directly supporting the Cool Waters and WINNS projects. The mitigation actions delivered included habitat creation and improvements delivered by volunteers, volunteer riverfly monitoring and the continued delivery of the John Muir Award to primary schools.

Magnesium Limestone Rural Diffuse Project Continued

Funded by the Environment Agency

This project engaged with farmers, conducted on-farm assessments and delivered interventions in the Castle Eden Dene and Hawthorn Dene coastal stream catchments to improve land management through technical professional conversations and practical action. The primary objective was to protect the Magnesium Limestone aquifer from the infiltration of nitrates, both directly through soil infiltration and indirectly through permeable stream beds of surface watercourses.

North Pennines: Carbon Connects

Funded by European Union Interreg North West Europe Region

This project became live in March 2018 with the initial project completing in September 2021 with a project extension or "capitalization" phase running from September 2021 to September 2023. The extended project focusses on marketing carbon storage through improved peatland land management to the private corporate sector, diversifying farm incomes. The continued exploration of the Maximum Sustainable Output approach, where livestock production is matched to natural grass availability on a low input/output basis, a profit-centred rather than production-centred business model, forms an important element of this extended project. The Trust is working with Trinity Agriculture to roll out the "Sandy" decision support tool to Carbon Connects partners and their networks. See CCONNECTS - Carbon Connects | Interreg NWE (nweurope.eu)

Nature Recovery Project

Funded by Defra via the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Beauty Partnership

Using the Carbon Connects project as a springboard, the existing Weardale farmer network was engaged to secure participation of 2 early adopter farmers in the proposed Weardale Maximum Sustainable Output (MSO) application to the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) funding, including the purchase of specialist soil monitoring equipment to enable the collection and interpretation of soil health monitoring and grazing management data.

Weardale Maximum Sustainable Output Project

Funded by Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

Leading on from Carbon Connects and the enabling Nature Recovery Project, Weardale MSO is working with 2 farmers to practically trial MSO in the Weardale landscape and to roll out learning, insights and experience to the wider North Pennines farming community. 2022-23 was the first year of the project, establishing environmental and business baselines. The MSO measures will begin to be implemented in 2023-24. The intention thereafter is to apply for continuation funding from FiPL to broaden the MSO farmer group during 2024-25 and then to apply for further funding to maintain environmental and business monitoring against baselines to 2030 and perhaps beyond as the impacts of changes to farm management become known. The key objective will be to continue roll out experience to North Pennine farmers, supporting nil/low input regenerative farming, benefiting soil health and the provision of Ecosystem Services.

Weardale Farmer Facilitation Group

Funded by DEFRA

In partnership with the North Pennines AONB Partnership the facilitation group provides a forum for farmer discussion with expert speakers. This initiative aims to influence the adoption of best practice on topics including Natural Flood Management, Rotational Grazing, Mapping habitat connectivity, Soil Health, Pasture Management for Waders, Trees on Farms, Public Goods & ELMs.

Natural Flood Management (NFM) and Erosion Control

Funded by Durham County Council (DCC) and Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

DCC commissioned the Trust to investigate flood risk options and make recommendations for mitigation actions to reduce flood risk from the Hedleyhope Burn around Esh Winning and at locations in Weardale, mainly around highway flooding.

The North Pennines AONB Partnership commissioned training for the staff on NFM principles and advice for a FiPL applicant on erosion.

Cool Waters

Funded by The Woodland Trust, supported by a range of other funders, including the Postcode Local and landowners

The 2022-23 planting season outputs represented the final year of a four year project with seed funding provided by the Woodland Trust, supplemented with other funding streams. There is cross over with mitigation works, including habitat enhancement on farms, described above. Cool Waters as a project was completed by the end of March 2023, but will be succeeded by further tree planting projects and by signposting landowners to partner funding including the Forestry Commissions' England Woodland Creation Offer.

Wear Invasive Non-Native Species (WINNS) Project

Funding: Postcode Local, Durham University, NWG Branchout, Durham Cathedral, City of Durham Parish Council, Durham Wildlife Trust, Durham Area Action Partnership

WRT continues to engage at the regional level, coordinating activity with other Rivers Trusts from the Tweed to the Tees. Active management in the Wear catchment continues to be concentrated on existing priority areas across the catchment, particularly in the catchment headwaters in Upper Weardale. The Browney and Gaunless are also priority catchments aligned with wider farm and habitat improvement activity through the Browney Natural Capital, the River Gaunless Reconnected 2 and Cool Waters projects. Invasives management is also a powerful community engagement driver for the Stanley SuDS project.

Pittington Beck in the upper Old Durham Beck system has been identified as the source of Giant Hogweed, supplying seed for infestation into the Durham Peninsula World Heritage Site and downstream, all the way to Sunderland. The Trust continues to work with local landowners to treat the source areas, with significant and ongoing support from a range of funders.

The Durham Peninsula has become an important focus for invasives management, improving river bank access and amenity in this iconic landscape, supporting the proposed extension of the World Heritage Site. WRT is working with, and between, the holdings of the main peninsula landowners and WCP partners: Durham Cathedral, University and County Council. Other local partners include City of Durham Parish Council, City of Durham Trust, plus rowing, angling and community clubs and groups, which together form an important community of interest. This community of interest is extending the measurement and management of plastics pollution from the World Heritage Site and downstream. A proposal to design and implement a barrier in Durham City to intercept and extract plastics is under development.

North East Catchment Hub (NECH)

Funded by Northumbrian Water Group (NWG) via The Rivers Trust (RT)

NECH was established through a strategic partnership agreed between NWG and RT supported and partnered by the local regional Rivers Trusts (Tweed, Northumberland, Tyne, Wear, Tees) in early 2022. The hub will undertake an optioneering and information-gathering project, developing options derived from wider catchment Nature Based Solutions, to reduce pollution, particularly phosphates to watercourses. These options, the first phase of which was completed by the end of 2022, is informing NWG's Water Industry Environment National Programme (WINEP) submission to OFWAT under the Price Review (PR) 2024 process. The completion of PR24 will drive NWG's Asset Management Plan 2025-30. This process has continued through 2022-23 and is expected to accelerate through 2023-24. NECH has the potential to deliver very significant strategic partnership opportunities to improve river health.

Blackdene Burn

Funded by Northumbrian Water Group (NWG)

A feasibility study to assess the hydrological implications of a NWG sewage flow transfer scheme and changes to Coal Authority groundwater management on Blackdene Burn. Identify enhancement opportunities for potential channel morphology mitigation actions to attenuate flow in the Blackdene Burn including considering possible mitigation associated with the proposed surface water drainage plan for the Sniperley Development.

South Burn River Restoration

Funded by Northumbrian Water Group (NWG) and Durham County Council (DCC)

Habitat and access improvements, including infrastructure repair, Invasives mapping and management, tree management, erosion control, pond maintenance across Daisy Hill Local Nature: https://www.durham.gov.uk /media/3991/Daisy-Hill-Nature-Reserve/pdf/DaisyHillNatureReserve.pdf?m=636735641876570000 and Waldridge Fell SSSI Site https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/3920/Waldridge-Fell-Country-Park/pdf/ WaldridgeFellCountryPark.pdf?m =636735642785570000

Rivers Trust Secondment

Funded by the Rivers Trust

The part time secondment of the WRT IT Officer to the RT IT team, charged at a daily rate for up to 4 days per week continued until October 2022 when the staff member left the Trust. IT management has since been outsourced.

WERM: Endeavour Group

Wear Rivers Trust were engaged in May 2022 by the Endeavour Group to develop and recommend mitigation measures, calculate the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) benefit of those measures and liaise with Durham County Council (DCC) officers as required to support the planning application. Advise and support Endeavour Group in the delivery of the mitigation measures required to achieve the projected BNG outcomes.

WERM: Northern Lithium

Discussions are ongoing with Northern Lithium to monitor surface water and groundwater to establish a baseline to inform any application which may be made to extract Lithium from groundwater in Weardale.

Financial review
Financial position
Incoming resources for the year (12 month period) were £484,188 (2022: £462,845). Total reserves for the year £154,201 (2022: £214,046).

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to 6 months average expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves was exceeded at the year end.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT
Governing document
The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The charity was established in 2010 under a Memorandum of Association which defines its objects and powers and is governed by its Articles of Association.

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

Dr Martyn C Lucas
Mr Neil Ashforth
Ms Joyce Moxon
Mr George Gerring
Mr David Hutchinson
Mr Graham Andrew Bell
Mr Dan Britton
Mr Hamish John Carter

The charity is governed by the Trustees who are recruited based on their expertise and are local community activists. Trustees are appointed by board resolution. Trustees meet on a regular, basis to oversee Trust governance, project development and delivery, financial management and any other issues of importance to ensure progress is made in line with the organisation's aims and objectives.

None of the Trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 each in the event of a winding up.

Trustees continually assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed. They are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The Wear Rivers Trust is reviewing the governance file comprising all relevant policies and procedures. Internal risks are minimised by the separation of duties with authorisation procedures in place for all transactions.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

04260195 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1094613

Registered office

Ground Floor
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Trustees

N Ashforth
G W J Gerring (resigned 25/10/2023)
Dr M C Lucas (resigned 19/10/2022)
Ms J Moxon (resigned 25/10/2023)
D Hutchinson
G A Bell
D Britton
H J Carter (appointed 19/10/2022)
T Fearherstone (appointed 25/10/2023)

Company Secretary

N Ashforth

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

David Holloway BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Ribchesters
Chartered Accountants
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 12 December 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Neil Ashforth

N Ashforth - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEAR RIVERS TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 04260195)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Wear Rivers Trust ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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



David Holloway BA (Hons) FCA DChA

Ribchesters
Chartered Accountants
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

12 December 2023

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	30,436	-	30,436	54
Charitable activities	4				
Conservation and Protection		174,208	278,249	452,457	462,698
Investment income	3	1,295	-	1,295	93
Total		205,939	278,249	484,188	462,845
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Conservation and Protection		178,266	365,766	544,032	440,156
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		27,673	(87,517)	(59,844)	22,689
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		46,764	167,282	214,046	191,357
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		74,437	79,765	154,202	214,046

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	19,552	-	19,552	12,608
Investments	10	1	-	1	-
		19,553	-	19,553	12,608
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	44,149	88,219	132,368	119,742
Cash at bank		14,821	329	15,150	121,163
		58,970	88,548	147,518	240,905
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(4,087)	(8,782)	(12,869)	(39,467)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		54,883	79,766	134,649	201,438
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		74,436	79,766	154,202	214,046
NET ASSETS		74,436	79,766	154,202	214,046
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds				74,436	46,764
Restricted funds				79,766	167,282
TOTAL FUNDS				154,202	214,046

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 12 December 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Neil Ashforth

N Ashforth - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(95,292)	669
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(95,292)	669
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(12,015)	(11,141)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(1)	-
Interest received		1,295	93
Net cash used in investing activities		(10,721)	(11,048)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(106,013)	(10,379)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		121,163	131,542
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		15,150	121,163

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(59,844)	22,689
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	5,069	2,686
Interest received	(1,295)	(93)
Increase in debtors	(12,624)	(30,339)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(26,598)	5,726
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	(95,292)	669

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	121,163	(106,013)	15,150
	121,163	(106,013)	15,150
Total	121,163	(106,013)	15,150

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

Income
All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be qualified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

- Investment income is recognised when receivable.

- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration for its performance.

- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional or related to the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

- Sponsorship income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities on the date of receipt.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as the liability is incurred. Expenditure includes irrecoverable input VAT, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

- Other expenditure includes those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity

- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 25% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 10% on cost

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Going concern
The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. The trustees have considered the financial position and performance of the charity including a review of future cash flows. They are confident that the charity is in a position to meet its commitments from those cash flows. They have therefore adopted the going concern principle.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	30,436	54

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest receivable	1,295	93

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	Conservation and Protection	Total activities
	£	£
Grants	452,457	462,698

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
The Environment Agency	104,444	101,059
Durham County Council	163,302	107,745
Northumbrian Water Group Limited	30,496	132,500
The Rivers Trust	49,186	10,497
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	14,965	17,137
North Pennines AONB Partnership	13,555	39,124
Woodland Trust	-	10,000
The Coal Authority	25,551	35,613
Other	50,956	9,023
	452,456	462,698

continued...

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent Examiners Fee	2,110	2,450
Depreciation - owned assets	5,071	2,686

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

7. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Average number of Staff	15	10

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	54	-	54
Charitable activities			
Conservation and Protection	11,898	450,800	462,698
Investment income	93	-	93
Total	12,045	450,800	462,845
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Conservation and Protection	13,177	426,979	440,156
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(1,132)	23,821	22,689
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	47,895	143,462	191,357
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	46,763	167,283	214,046

continued...

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2022	17,991	1,108	19,099
Additions	10,433	1,582	12,015
At 31 March 2023	28,424	2,690	31,114
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2022	6,183	308	6,491
Charge for year	4,900	171	5,071
At 31 March 2023	11,083	479	11,562
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2023	17,341	2,211	19,552
At 31 March 2022	11,808	800	12,608

10. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Unlisted investments £
MARKET VALUE	
Additions	1
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	1
At 31 March 2022	-

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

Water and Environmental Resources Management Limited
Registered office: Finchale House, Belmont Business Park, Durham, England, DH1 1TW
Nature of business: Environmental consulting

Class of share:	% holding
Ordinary	100

continued...

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	58,466	44,630
Amounts owed by group undertakings	443	-
Prepayments and accrued income	73,459	75,112
	132,368	119,742

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,680	23,163
Social security and other taxes	6,699	13,884
Accruals and deferred income	2,490	2,420
	12,869	39,467

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	46,764	27,672	74,436
Restricted funds			
Education and Riverfly	23,241	(21,581)	1,660
Metal Mines	2,840	(2,840)	-
Weardale Natural Flood Management	5,747	441	6,188
CaBa	305	(305)	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	13,288	(8,037)	5,251
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	12,012	(12,012)	-
Cool Waters	40,782	(34,698)	6,084
Metal Mines Cambokeels	1,117	(1,117)	-
Sunderland City Council	3,693	(155)	3,538
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	37,558	(20,012)	17,546
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	431	(431)	-
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	1,725	(1,725)	-
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	62	(62)	-
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	16,438	(13,264)	3,174
Weardale MSO	6,699	(6,699)	-
NWL Browney Access	1,344	(1,344)	-
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering Project	-	5,365	5,365
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	-	1,654	1,654
Chester Le Street AAP	-	5,889	5,889
Citizen Science and Riverfly	-	201	201
NWL Blue Space - Old Durham Beck	-	14,271	14,271
DWT/ SCC Linked Together	-	56	56
Weardale FFF	-	128	128
Fun & Food	-	2,361	2,361
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	-	6,400	6,400
	167,282	(87,516)	79,766
TOTAL FUNDS	214,046	(59,844)	154,202

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	205,938	(178,266)	27,672
Restricted funds			
Education and Riverfly	2,277	(23,858)	(21,581)
Metal Mines	-	(2,840)	(2,840)
Weardale Natural Flood Management	5,255	(4,814)	441
CaBa	15,000	(15,305)	(305)
Carbon Connects	14,965	(14,965)	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	24,979	(33,016)	(8,037)
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	-	(12,012)	(12,012)
Cool Waters	4	(34,702)	(34,698)
Metal Mines Cambokeels	-	(1,117)	(1,117)
Sunderland City Council	-	(155)	(155)
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	(20,012)	(20,012)
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	-	(431)	(431)
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	-	(1,725)	(1,725)
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	-	(62)	(62)
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	130,147	(143,411)	(13,264)
Weardale MSO	-	(6,699)	(6,699)
NWL Browney Access	-	(1,344)	(1,344)
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering Project	5,750	(385)	5,365
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	16,999	(15,345)	1,654
Chester Le Street AAP	6,000	(111)	5,889
Citizen Science and Riverfly	5,089	(4,888)	201
NWL Blue Space - Old Durham Beck	25,000	(10,729)	14,271
DWT/ SCC Linked Together	11,506	(11,450)	56
Weardale FFF	1,156	(1,028)	128
Fun & Food	7,723	(5,362)	2,361
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	6,400	-	6,400
	278,250	(365,766)	(87,516)
TOTAL FUNDS	484,188	(544,032)	(59,844)

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	47,895	(1,131)	-	46,764
Restricted funds				
Education and Riverfly	-	23,241	-	23,241
Metal Mines	1,060	1,780	-	2,840
Weardale Natural Flood Management	-	5,747	-	5,747
CaBa	804	(499)	-	305
Carbon Connects	14,401	(14,401)	-	-
Browney Smallhope Natural Flood Management and Engagement	-	(7,310)	7,310	-
WCP Business Development	15,237	(15,237)	-	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	-	13,288	-	13,288
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	33,256	(21,244)	-	12,012
Cool Waters	14,644	26,138	-	40,782
Metal Mines Cambokeels	677	440	-	1,117
Sunderland City Council	5,230	(1,537)	-	3,693
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	54,767	(9,899)	(7,310)	37,558
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	431	-	-	431
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	1,725	-	-	1,725
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	1,230	(1,168)	-	62
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	-	16,438	-	16,438
Weardale MSO	-	6,699	-	6,699
NWL Browney Access	-	1,344	-	1,344
	143,462	23,820	-	167,282
TOTAL FUNDS	191,357	22,689	-	214,046

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	12,044	(13,175)	(1,131)
Restricted funds			
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	17,613	(17,613)	-
Education and Riverfly	41,333	(18,092)	23,241
Metal Mines	15,276	(13,496)	1,780
Weardale Natural Flood Management	7,750	(2,003)	5,747
CaBa	15,001	(15,500)	(499)
Carbon Connects	13,023	(27,424)	(14,401)
Browney Smallhope Natural Flood Management and Engagement	-	(7,310)	(7,310)
WCP Business Development	-	(15,237)	(15,237)
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	59,149	(45,861)	13,288
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	-	(21,244)	(21,244)
Cool Waters	48,929	(22,791)	26,138
Metal Mines Cambokeels	20,338	(19,898)	440
Sunderland City Council	-	(1,537)	(1,537)
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	(9,899)	(9,899)
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	-	(1,168)	(1,168)
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	102,146	(85,708)	16,438
Weardale MSO	25,433	(18,734)	6,699
NWL Browney Access	1,500	(156)	1,344
WEIF Browney	27,479	(27,479)	-
WEIF Gaunless	26,480	(26,480)	-
WEIF Eden / Wapping	29,351	(29,351)	-
	450,801	(426,981)	23,820
TOTAL FUNDS	462,845	(440,156)	22,689

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	47,895	26,541	-	74,436
Restricted funds				
Education and Riverfly	-	1,660	-	1,660
Metal Mines	1,060	(1,060)	-	-
Weardale Natural Flood Management	-	6,188	-	6,188
CaBa	804	(804)	-	-
Carbon Connects	14,401	(14,401)	-	-
Browney Smallhope Natural Flood Management and Engagement	-	(7,310)	7,310	-
WCP Business Development	15,237	(15,237)	-	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	-	5,251	-	5,251
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	33,256	(33,256)	-	-
Cool Waters	14,644	(8,560)	-	6,084
Metal Mines Cambokeels	677	(677)	-	-
Sunderland City Council	5,230	(1,692)	-	3,538
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	54,767	(29,911)	(7,310)	17,546
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	431	(431)	-	-
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	1,725	(1,725)	-	-
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	1,230	(1,230)	-	-
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	-	3,174	-	3,174
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering Project	-	5,365	-	5,365
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	-	1,654	-	1,654
Chester Le Street AAP	-	5,889	-	5,889
Citizen Science and Riverfly	-	201	-	201
NWL Blue Space - Old Durham Beck	-	14,271	-	14,271
DWT/ SCC Linked Together	-	56	-	56
Weardale FFF	-	128	-	128
Fun & Food	-	2,361	-	2,361
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	-	6,400	-	6,400
	143,462	(63,696)	-	79,766
TOTAL FUNDS	191,357	(37,155)	-	154,202

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	217,982	(191,441)	26,541
Restricted funds			
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	17,613	(17,613)	-
Education and Riverfly	43,610	(41,950)	1,660
Metal Mines	15,276	(16,336)	(1,060)
Weardale Natural Flood Management	13,005	(6,817)	6,188
CaBa	30,001	(30,805)	(804)
Carbon Connects	27,988	(42,389)	(14,401)
Browney Smallhope Natural Flood Management and Engagement	-	(7,310)	(7,310)
WCP Business Development	-	(15,237)	(15,237)
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	84,128	(78,877)	5,251
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	-	(33,256)	(33,256)
Cool Waters	48,933	(57,493)	(8,560)
Metal Mines Cambokeels	20,338	(21,015)	(677)
Sunderland City Council	-	(1,692)	(1,692)
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	(29,911)	(29,911)
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	-	(431)	(431)
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	-	(1,725)	(1,725)
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	-	(1,230)	(1,230)
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	232,293	(229,119)	3,174
Weardale MSO	25,433	(25,433)	-
NWL Browney Access	1,500	(1,500)	-
WEIF Browney	27,479	(27,479)	-
WEIF Gaunless	26,480	(26,480)	-
WEIF Eden / Wapping	29,351	(29,351)	-
Stanley Burn Twizell Volunteering Project	5,750	(385)	5,365
Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust	16,999	(15,345)	1,654
Chester Le Street AAP	6,000	(111)	5,889
Citizen Science and Riverfly	5,089	(4,888)	201
NWL Blue Space - Old Durham Beck	25,000	(10,729)	14,271
DWT/ SCC Linked Together	11,506	(11,450)	56
Weardale FFF	1,156	(1,028)	128
Fun & Food	7,723	(5,362)	2,361
John Muir Gaunless Reconnected	6,400	-	6,400
	729,051	(792,747)	(63,696)
TOTAL FUNDS	947,033	(984,188)	(37,155)

continued...

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1094613

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04260195 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1094613

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

FOR

WEAR RIVERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Ribchesters
Chartered Accountants
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (12 month period).

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 Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Small Entities (2015) Charities SORP.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charitable objectives for which the Wear Rivers Trust (WRT) was established are:

To conserve, protect and rehabilitate and improve the landscape, rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the whole Wear catchment, Co-Durham including Weardale, the middle and lower Wear, all tributaries and adjacent estuarine and coastal areas and waters.

To advance the education of the public, or any association, company, local authority, administrative or government agency in the understanding of rivers, corridors and catchments, including their fauna, economic and social context activity, comprising river catchment management. To provide a greater understanding as to the need and benefits of conservation, protection, rehabilitation, and improvement of aquatic environments.

These objectives must be seen in the context of the global climate change emergency. WRT as part of the national Rivers Trust network, as host of the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP) is working at the local scale to support the global imperatives of both mitigating and managing the consequences of climate change. WRT promotes and delivers practical measures to improve integrated urban and rural land, surface water and groundwater management, sequestering carbon, improving drought resilience, and reducing flood risk.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act the trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. All activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The Trust relies on volunteers to collect monitoring data, carry out practical tasks, support education activities and to develop and manage projects through several Local Management Groups. All volunteer hours are recorded and used as match funding to support funding applications.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

Contingency & Resilience: Coherence and Team Structure

The staff team continues to be fully home based after the South Church office was given up in August 2020 during Covid. Whilst the convenience of home-based working is popular with staff every effort is made to meet regularly in person and virtually to maintain personal contact, especially given the relatively high proportion of new starters to the team.

An initiative to strengthen Trust contingency and resilience through the mentoring of less experienced staff by established staff, and to support the effective co-ordination of project delivery and reporting is being established. The intention is to develop this approach into a revised team structure to provide more consistent project visibility and support. This developing team structure will strengthen planned contingency to cover routine Director absence or that due to unplanned events. It will free up capacity to further develop Strategy and Business Planning.

Charitable Activities

Sustainable Funding to Deliver Charitable Objectives

To deliver its charitable aims and objectives WRT must achieve financial resilience, through the maintenance of core reserves in line with the Charities Commission guidelines, to be sustainable in the unpredictable, complex and competitive funding environment. To do this the Trust is continues to develop relationships to attract funding from the business and the wider community to support project delivery in order to reduce dependence on project specific funding. This approach remains ongoing as the Trust remains dependent upon project specific funding from a range of sources.

The WRT website https://wear-rivers-trust.org.uk is under continual development as is WRT social media platforms to showcase Trust priorities and activity. Interactive Storymaps has given visibility of the whole Wear catchment characteristics and by individual sub catchment.

Deliverables 2021 - 2022

Wear Catchment Partnership

Funded by Defra.

The Wear Rivers Trust (WRT) has hosted the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP) since its inception in 2011. The WCP continues to develop and attract new members. The Steering Group comprises: WRT, Sunderland City Council (Chair), Environment Agency, Durham County Council, Heritage Coast Partnership, Seasscapes, Durham Wildlife Trust, North Pennines AONB Partnership, Groundwork North East and Cumbria, Northumbrian Water Group, Durham University, Durham Cathedral, The Auckland Project, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, Sustainability North East and East Durham College.

The WCP exists to plan, co-ordinate and deliver integrated environmental projects, delivering multiple benefits with greatest efficiency. A Catchment Action Plan has been developed and adopted by the WCP to better co-ordinate the development and delivery of partnership projects. The WCP is referenced in many of the projects delivered and developed during 2021/22. The Partnership remains a key strategic priority for WRT to most effectively achieve its charitable objectives by identifying and working on common priorities with a diverse range of partners.

Browney Natural Capital Project

Funded by the Environment Agency.

The second year of a 3 year project was delivered 2021-22 This project is primarily focussed on farm visits to identify sources and pathways for agricultural diffuse pollution, particularly phosphate and to identify and implement agreed mitigation measures. Water quality monitoring for phosphates on watercourses downstream of participating farms is an additional element. Ancillary activity includes identification and treatments of INNS and other habitat improvement opportunities eg tree planting and in-channel works. This project is aligned with and supports the Northumbrian Water Browney Phosphate Reduction Project which will continue into 2022-23 and which will inform the development of the North East Catchment Hub.

North East Catchment Hub (NECH)

Funded by Northumbrian Water Group (NWG) via The Rivers Trust (RT).

NECH was established through a strategic partnership agreed between NWG and RT supported and partnered by the local regional Rivers Trusts (Tweed, Northumberland, Tyne, Wear, Tees) in early 2022. The hub will undertake an optioneering and information-gathering project, developing options derived from wider catchment Nature Based Solutions, to reduce pollution, particularly phosphates to watercourses. These options, the first phase of which will be completed by the end of 2022, will inform NWG's Water Industry Environment National Programme (WINEP) submission to OFWAT under the Price Review (PR) 2024 process. The completion of PR24 will drive NWG's Asset Management Plan 2025-30. This process is expected to continue through 2022-23 and beyond and has the potential to deliver very significant strategic partnership opportunities to improve river health.

River Gaunless Reconnected

Funded by the Environment Agency, Gaunless Gateway-Big Local.

Long standing and effective local partnership working had been disrupted and dislocated through Covid. This project was designed to reconnect with and revive those relationships. The project addressed diffuse agricultural pollution through the delivery of farm assessments and actions to mitigate farm pollution, particularly through the interception of run-off pathways from farm infrastructure and soils to watercourses. Opportunities were identified via farm assessments to deliver habitat improvements through tree planting and invasives species management, directly supporting the Cool Waters and WINNS projects. Relationships were revived with local primary schools through the delivery of structured activity weeks via the John Muir Award.

Cool Waters

Funded by The Woodland Trust, Postcode Local and an Enforcement Undertaking.

The 2021-22 planting season outputs represented the third year of a four year project with seed funding provided by the Woodland Trust, supplemented with other funding streams. Planning is underway for the 2022-23 season. Tree planting sites were delivered over the 2021-22 Discussions are underway with partners about extending Cool Waters, or similar project, to continue tree riparian planting into the future. We are currently reviewing the management plans to improve planting success rate and replace any losses that have occurred due to the prolonged dry spell and browsing damage from deer and farm animals.

Wear Invasive Non-Native Species (WINNS) Project

Funding: Various, including an Enforcement Undertaking, Postcode Local and NWG Branchout.

WRT continues to engage at the regional level, co-ordinating activity with other Rivers Trusts from the Tweed to the Tees. Active management in the Wear catchment continues to be concentrated on existing priority areas across the catchment, particularly in the catchment headwaters in Upper Weardale. The Browney and Gaunless are also priority catchments aligned with wider farm and habitat improvement activity through the Browney Natural Capital, the River Gaunless Reconnected and Cool Waters projects. Invasives management is also a powerful community engagement driver for the Stanley SuDS project.

The Durham Peninsula has become an important focus for invasives management, improving river bank access and amenity in this iconic landscape, supporting the proposed extension of the World Heritage site. WRT is working with, and between, the holdings of the main peninsula landowners and WCP partners: Durham Cathedral, University and County Council. Other local partners include City of Durham Parish Council, City of Durham Trust, plus rowing, angling and community clubs and groups, which together form an important community of interest.

Given the long term nature of INNS management (est 5-10 years for effective treatment) the level of effort required increases as additional sites are taken into management. The challenge is to effectively plan and manage a multi-year programme through largely annualized funding.

Weardale Abandoned Metal Mines (WAMM) Containment of contaminated sediments from historic metal mines

Funded by The Coal Authority.

Building on the previous successful containment of contaminated sediments in the Middlehope and Killhope catchments, and the delivery of a project feasibility report recommending mitigation interventions in the Rookhope catchment, detailed specifications will be drawn up and tenders invited 2022-23 for intervention delivery 2023-24 in the Rookhope valley. Minewater discharge monitoring at Cambokeels mine continued over 2021-22 and will continue into/perhaps beyond 2022-23, gathering water quality data to assist inform the future development and construction of an adjacent wetland designed to intercept pollutants.

Weardale Natural Flood Management

Funded by the Environment Agency.

Discussions and preliminary engagement with the EA on the design and construction of three flood storage features on the Middlehope catchment through 2021-22. This work is planned to be delivered through 2022-23. This work builds on the landowner engagement established through the delivery of WAMM features previously delivered in the catchment.

Sunderland River Schools

Funded by The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust.

The 2021/22 project comprised ten urban primary schools receiving an in-school water environment introductory session followed by a hands-on practical day at Harehope Quarry, Weardale. Two of the ten schools spent a comparative day on the Wear in Sunderland, combined with a creative media and arts session, producing an animation incorporating the work of both schools. The success of the 2021-22 project has led to the 2022-23 programme being extended to a total of twelve schools, with the addition of a visit to the Wild Oyster Project hosted by catchment partner Groundwork North East & Cumbria.

Stanley SuDS+

Funded though the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme via Durham County Council.

This is a multi-year project running until March 2027 to develop an innovative community based approach toward the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage System installations into a host community, developing a template with the potential for national application. . WRT's role in the project is to engage the community with the location design and long term maintenance of structures. This outcome is being achieved through the facilitation of information and consultation events, liaising between technical specialists and local business and community stakeholders. The profile of SuDS and the wider water environment is being raised through specialist River School education sessions with local primary and secondary schools, together with the delivery of habitat improvements, with a core flood management theme delivered by volunteers in the Stanley Burn headwaters.

Return to Eden

Funded by the Environment Agency and an Enforcement Undertaking.

This project was located on the three tributaries comprising the headwaters of the Castle Eden Dene, the Gore, Edderacres and Wapping burns, working with the Durham Wildlife Trust to create habitat suitable for the natural recolonization of water voles. WRT worked with the East Durham Business Network to engage with local businesses to highlight potential impacts from their operations on local watercourses and opportunities for mitigation actions to achieve beneficial environmental impacts. Two local primary schools participated in structured practical environmental activity programmes, achieving the John Muir Award.

North Pennines: Carbon Connects

Funded by European Union Interreg North West Europe Region.

The North Pennines AONB Partnership was lead partner with WRT as supporting partner. This project became live in March 2018 with the initial project completing in September 2021, comprising 9 projects across 6 countries. Through this project WRT established a demonstration farm to explore the concept of" Maximum Sustainable Output" where livestock production is matched to natural grass availability on a low input/output basis. This is a profit-centred rather than production-centred business model. Resultant environmental benefits open up the opportunity for farms to diversify income streams through the protection of Natural Capital and payments for ecosystem services. A successful event was held October 2021 to disseminate result to c60 attendees, mainly practicing hill farmers.

A project extension or "capitalization" has been secured to run from September 2021 to September 2023, with WRT as a full partner. The extended project focusses on marketing carbon storage through improved peatland land management to the private corporate sector, diversifying farm incomes. The continued exploration of the Maximum Sustainable Output approach will form an important element of this extended project.

Nature Recovery Project

Funded by Defra via the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Beauty Partnership.

The further investigation of the Maximum Sustainable Output approach was initiated in early 2022 envisaging how to most effectively roll out the concept across the North Pennines, based on the development of demonstration farms in Weardale. Data collection will be supported through the acquisition of Fieldclimate and LoRain soil monitoring stations. To be developed through 2022-23.

Topsoil

Funded by European Union Interreg North Sea Region, Durham University and Northumbrian Water.

Running from November 2015, completing delivery December 2021 with full project completion March 2022. The project was extended through Topsoil 2 "capitalization". The project timeline was further extended due to covid. The project comprises 16 different projects across 5 countries. WRT led the UK1 local consortium which includes Durham University and Northumbrian Water. The principal objective behind UK1 is to gain a greater understanding of surface-groundwater interactions within the Wear catchment. Opportunities to improve communication with key stakeholders, generating regulatory and direct integrated land and surface water and groundwater management benefits, are being pursued through the Wear Catchment Partnership. Durham County Council is talking to WRT about soil management, agricultural run-off, highway drainage sedimentation and flooding. Topsoil 2 ran from from May 2020 to December 2021. The key themes of mitigating climate change through improved moisture retention, increasing drought resilience and reducing flood risk were continued and amplified through Topsoil 2 collecting detailed soil health data from 3 local farms under different tillage techniques for promotion on a demonstrator farm basis to the wider farming community.

Rivers Trust Secondment

Funded by the Rivers Trust.

The part time secondment of the WRT IT Officer to the RT IT team, charged at a daily rate, continued throughout 2021-22, building knowledge, expertise and networking and has benefitted WRT's reputation.

Financial review

Financial position

Incoming resources for the year (12 month period) were £462,845 (2021: £327,701). Total reserves for the year £214,046 (2021: £191,357).

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to 6 months average expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves was exceeded at the year end.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The charity was established in 2010 under a Memorandum of Association which defines its objects and powers and is governed by its Articles of Association.

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

Dr Martyn C Lucas
Mr Neil Ashforth
Ms Joyce Moxon
Mr George Gerring
Mr David Hutchinson
Mr Graham Andrew Bell
Mr Dan Britton

The charity is governed by the Trustees who are recruited based on their expertise and are local community activists. Trustees are appointed by board resolution. Trustees meet on a regular, basis to oversee Trust governance, project development and delivery, financial management and any other issues of importance to ensure progress is made in line with the organisation's aims and objectives.

None of the Trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 each in the event of a winding up.

Trustees continually assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed. They are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The Wear Rivers Trust is reviewing the governance file comprising all relevant policies and procedures. Internal risks are minimised by the separation of duties with authorisation procedures in place for all transactions.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

04260195 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1094613

Registered office

Ground Floor
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Trustees

N Ashforth
G W J Gerring
Dr C A Gibson (resigned 1/12/2021)
Dr M C Lucas
Ms J Moxon
D Hutchinson
G A Bell
D Britton (appointed 15/5/2021)

Company Secretary

N Ashforth

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner
David Holloway
BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Ribchesters
Chartered Accountants
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 19 October 2022 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Neil Ashforth

N Ashforth - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEAR RIVERS TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 04260195)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Wear Rivers Trust ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of BA (Hons) FCA DChA which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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



David Holloway
BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Ribchesters
Chartered Accountants
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Date: 17/11/2022

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	54	-	54	437
Charitable activities					
Conservation and Protection		11,898	450,800	462,698	327,512
Other trading activities	3	-	-	-	(335)
Investment income	4	93	-	93	87
Total		12,045	450,800	462,845	327,701
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Conservation and Protection		13,177	426,979	440,156	434,882
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(1,132)	23,821	22,689	(107,181)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		47,895	143,462	191,357	298,538
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		46,763	167,283	214,046	191,357

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10	12,608	-	12,608	4,153
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	32,209	87,533	119,742	89,403
Cash at bank		4,818	116,345	121,163	131,542
		37,027	203,878	240,905	220,945
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(2,871)	(36,596)	(39,467)	(33,741)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		34,156	167,282	201,438	187,204
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		46,764	167,282	214,046	191,357
NET ASSETS		46,764	167,282	214,046	191,357
FUNDS	15				
Unrestricted funds				46,764	47,895
Restricted funds				167,282	143,462
TOTAL FUNDS				214,046	191,357

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 19 October 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

Neil Ashforth

N Ashforth - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	669	4,194
Net cash provided by operating activities		669	4,194
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(11,141)	(1,526)
Interest received		93	87
Net cash used in investing activities		(11,048)	(1,439)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(10,379)	2,755
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2	131,542	128,787
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2	121,163	131,542

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	22,689	(107,181)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,686	1,594
Interest received	(93)	(87)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(30,339)	113,325
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	5,726	(3,457)
Net cash provided by operations	669	4,194

2. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	177,122	131,542
Overdrafts included in bank loans and overdrafts falling due within one year	(55,959)	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	121,163	131,542

3. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.21	Cash flow	At 31.3.22
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank	131,542	45,580	177,122
Bank overdrafts	-	(55,959)	(55,959)
	131,542	(10,379)	121,163
Total	131,542	(10,379)	121,163

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be qualified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

- Investment income is recognised when receivable.

- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration for its performance.

- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional or related to the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

- Sponsorship income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities on the date of receipt.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as the liability is incurred. Expenditure includes irrecoverable input VAT, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

- Other expenditure includes those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity

- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 25% on reducing balance

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting
Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Going concern
The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. The trustees have considered the financial position and performance of the charity including a review of future cash flows. They are confident that the charity is in a position to meet its commitments from those cash flows. They have therefore adopted the going concern principle.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations	54	437

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other services provided	-	(335)

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest receivable	93	87

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	Conservation and Protection	Total activities
	£	£
Grants	462,698	327,512

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
The Environment Agency	101,059	64,315
Durham County Council	107,745	12,984
Northumbrian Water Group Limited	132,500	10,000
The Rivers Trust	10,497	8,700
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	17,137	22,915
North Pennines AONB Partnership	39,124	24,907
Woodland Trust	10,000	10,000
The Coal Authority	35,613	139,113
Postcode Lottery	-	19,920
Other	9,023	14,658
	462,698	327,512

continued...

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent Examiners Fee	2,450	1,920
Depreciation - owned assets	2,686	1,594

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

8. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
Average number of Staff	10	8

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	437	-	437
Charitable activities			
Conservation and Protection	41,400	286,112	327,512
Other trading activities	(335)	-	(335)
Investment income	87	-	87
Total	41,589	286,112	327,701
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Conservation and Protection	106,184	328,698	434,882
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(64,595)	(42,586)	(107,181)
Transfers between funds	(10,000)	10,000	-
Net movement in funds	(74,595)	(32,586)	(107,181)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	122,492	176,046	298,538

continued...

9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	47,897	143,460	191,357

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2021	16,917	262	17,179
Additions	10,295	846	11,141
Disposals	(9,221)	-	(9,221)
At 31 March 2022	17,991	1,108	19,099
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2021	12,764	262	13,026
Charge for year	2,640	46	2,686
Eliminated on disposal	(9,221)	-	(9,221)
At 31 March 2022	6,183	308	6,491
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2022	11,808	800	12,608
At 31 March 2021	4,153	-	4,153

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	44,629	22,486
Prepayments and accrued income	75,113	66,917
	119,742	89,403

continued...

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	23,163	27,043
Social security and other taxes	13,884	4,748
Accruals and deferred income	2,420	1,950
	39,467	33,741

13. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Within one year	-	5,415

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	47,895	(1,131)	-	46,764
Restricted funds				
Education and Riverfly	-	23,241	-	23,241
Metal Mines	1,060	1,780	-	2,840
Weardale Natural Flood Management	-	5,747	-	5,747
CaBa	804	(499)	-	305
Carbon Connects	14,401	(14,401)	-	-
Browney Smallhope Natural Flood Management and Engagement	-	(7,310)	7,310	-
WCP Business Development	15,237	(15,237)	-	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	-	13,288	-	13,288
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	33,256	(21,244)	-	12,012
Cool Waters	14,644	26,138	-	40,782
Metal Mines Cambokeels	677	440	-	1,117
Sunderland City Council	5,230	(1,537)	-	3,693
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	54,767	(9,899)	(7,310)	37,558
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	431	-	-	431
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	1,725	-	-	1,725
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	1,230	(1,168)	-	62
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	-	16,438	-	16,438
Weardale MSO	-	6,699	-	6,699
NWL Browney Access	-	1,344	-	1,344
	143,462	23,820	-	167,282
TOTAL FUNDS	191,357	22,689	-	214,046

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	12,044	(13,175)	(1,131)
Restricted funds			
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	17,613	(17,613)	-
Education and Riverfly	41,333	(18,092)	23,241
Metal Mines	15,276	(13,496)	1,780
Weardale Natural Flood Management	7,750	(2,003)	5,747
CaBa	15,001	(15,500)	(499)
Carbon Connects	13,023	(27,424)	(14,401)
Browney Smallhope Natural Flood Management and Engagement	-	(7,310)	(7,310)
WCP Business Development	-	(15,237)	(15,237)
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	59,149	(45,861)	13,288
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	-	(21,244)	(21,244)
Cool Waters	48,929	(22,791)	26,138
Metal Mines Cambokeels	20,338	(19,898)	440
Sunderland City Council	-	(1,537)	(1,537)
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	(9,899)	(9,899)
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	-	(1,168)	(1,168)
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	102,146	(85,708)	16,438
Weardale MSO	25,433	(18,734)	6,699
NWL Browney Access	1,500	(156)	1,344
WEIF Browney	27,479	(27,479)	-
WEIF Gaunless	26,480	(26,480)	-
WEIF Eden / Wapping	29,351	(29,351)	-
	450,801	(426,981)	23,820
TOTAL FUNDS	462,845	(440,156)	22,689

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	122,492	(64,597)	(10,000)	47,895
Restricted funds				
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	11,835	(11,835)	-	-
Metal Mines	-	1,060	-	1,060
Weardale Natural Flood Management	1,785	(11,785)	10,000	-
CaBa	145	659	-	804
Carbon Connects	-	14,401	-	14,401
WCP Business Development	29,621	(14,384)	-	15,237
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	49,190	(15,934)	-	33,256
Cool Waters	8,335	6,309	-	14,644
Metal Mines Cambokeels	47	630	-	677
Sunderland City Council	6,272	(1,042)	-	5,230
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	67,950	(13,183)	-	54,767
Smallhope & Upper Cong Burn Optioneering	493	(493)	-	-
James Knott "Our River Wear in Schools"	373	(373)	-	-
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	-	431	-	431
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	-	1,725	-	1,725
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	-	1,230	-	1,230
	176,046	(42,584)	10,000	143,462
TOTAL FUNDS	298,538	(107,181)	-	191,357

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	41,588	(106,185)	(64,597)
Restricted funds			
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	10,803	(22,638)	(11,835)
Metal Mines	134,337	(133,277)	1,060
Weardale Natural Flood Management	(10,000)	(1,785)	(11,785)
CaBa	14,999	(14,340)	659
Carbon Connects	55,376	(40,975)	14,401
Cong Burn Restoration Project phase 1 18/19	22,375	(22,375)	-
WCP Business Development	-	(14,384)	(14,384)
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	-	(15,934)	(15,934)
Cool Waters	21,714	(15,405)	6,309
Metal Mines Cambokeels	2,250	(1,620)	630
Sunderland City Council	-	(1,042)	(1,042)
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	(13,183)	(13,183)
Smallhope & Upper Cong Burn Optioneering	-	(493)	(493)
James Knott "Our River Wear in Schools"	-	(373)	(373)
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	17,319	(16,888)	431
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	13,939	(12,214)	1,725
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	3,001	(1,771)	1,230
	286,113	(328,697)	(42,584)
TOTAL FUNDS	327,701	(434,882)	(107,181)

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	122,492	(65,728)	(10,000)	46,764
Restricted funds				
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	11,835	(11,835)	-	-
Education and Riverfly	-	23,241	-	23,241
Metal Mines	-	2,840	-	2,840
Weardale Natural Flood Management	1,785	(6,038)	10,000	5,747
CaBa	145	160	-	305
Browney Smallhope Natural Flood Management and Engagement	-	(7,310)	7,310	-
WCP Business Development	29,621	(29,621)	-	-
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	-	13,288	-	13,288
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	49,190	(37,178)	-	12,012
Cool Waters	8,335	32,447	-	40,782
Metal Mines Cambokeels	47	1,070	-	1,117
Sunderland City Council	6,272	(2,579)	-	3,693
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	67,950	(23,082)	(7,310)	37,558
Smallhope & Upper Cong Burn Optioneering	493	(493)	-	-
James Knott "Our River Wear in Schools"	373	(373)	-	-
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	-	431	-	431
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	-	1,725	-	1,725
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	-	62	-	62
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	-	16,438	-	16,438
Weardale MSO	-	6,699	-	6,699
NWL Browney Access	-	1,344	-	1,344
	176,046	(18,764)	10,000	167,282
TOTAL FUNDS	298,538	(84,492)	-	214,046

continued...

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	53,632	(119,360)	(65,728)
Restricted funds			
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	28,416	(40,251)	(11,835)
Education and Riverfly	41,333	(18,092)	23,241
Metal Mines	149,613	(146,773)	2,840
Weardale Natural Flood Management	(2,250)	(3,788)	(6,038)
CaBa	30,000	(29,840)	160
Carbon Connects	68,399	(68,399)	-
Browney Smallhope Natural Flood Management and Engagement	-	(7,310)	(7,310)
Cong Burn Restoration Project phase 1 18/19	22,375	(22,375)	-
WCP Business Development	-	(29,621)	(29,621)
Wear INNS Management plan EEU	59,149	(45,861)	13,288
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	-	(37,178)	(37,178)
Cool Waters	70,643	(38,196)	32,447
Metal Mines Cambokeels	22,588	(21,518)	1,070
Sunderland City Council	-	(2,579)	(2,579)
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	(23,082)	(23,082)
Smallhope & Upper Cong Burn Optioneering	-	(493)	(493)
James Knott "Our River Wear in Schools"	-	(373)	(373)
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	17,319	(16,888)	431
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	13,939	(12,214)	1,725
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	3,001	(2,939)	62
DCC - Stanley Sustainable Drainage System	102,146	(85,708)	16,438
Weardale MSO	25,433	(18,734)	6,699
NWL Browney Access	1,500	(156)	1,344
WEIF Browney	27,479	(27,479)	-
WEIF Gaunless	26,480	(26,480)	-
WEIF Eden / Wapping	29,351	(29,351)	-
	736,914	(755,678)	(18,764)
TOTAL FUNDS	790,546	(875,038)	(84,492)

continued...

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022.

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1094613

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04260195 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1094613

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

FOR

WEAR RIVERS TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Ribchesters
Chartered Accountants
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 (12 month period).

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 Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Small Entities (2015) Charities SORP.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charitable objectives for which the Wear Rivers Trust (WRT) was established are:

To conserve, protect and rehabilitate and improve the landscape, rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the whole Wear catchment, Co-Durham including Weardale, the middle and lower Wear, all tributaries and adjacent estuarine and coastal areas and waters.

To advance the education of the public, or any association, company, local authority, administrative or government agency in the understanding of rivers, corridors and catchments, including their fauna, economic and social context activity, comprising river catchment management. To provide a greater understanding as to the need and benefits of conservation, protection, rehabilitation, and improvement of aquatic environments.

These objectives must be seen in the context of the global climate change emergency. WRT as part of the national Rivers Trust network, as host of the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP) and member of several sub catchment Local Management Groups, is working at the local scale to support the global imperatives of both mitigating and managing the consequences of climate change. WRT promotes and delivers practical measures to improve integrated urban and rural land, surface water and groundwater management, sequestering carbon, improving drought resilience, and reducing flood risk.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act the trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. All activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The Trust relies on volunteers to collect monitoring data, carry out practical tasks, support education activities and to develop and manage projects through several Local Management Groups. All volunteer hours are recorded and used as match funding to support funding applications.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

Sustainable Funding to Deliver Charitable Objectives

To deliver its charitable aims and objectives WRT must achieve financial resilience, through the maintenance of core reserves in line with the Charities Commission guidelines, to be sustainable in the unpredictable, complex and competitive funding environment. To do this the Trust is continues to develop relationships to attract funding from the business and the wider community to support project delivery in order to reduce dependence on project specific funding. This process has been severely disrupted by Covid and the Trust remains dependent upon project specific funding from a range of sources.

The WRT website https://wear-rivers-trust.org.uk is under continual development as is WRT social media platforms to showcase Trust priorities and activity. Interactive Storymaps has given visibility of the whole Wear catchment characteristics and by individual sub catchment.

The Trust was successful in recovering a further £59,218 lost through fraud in 2018

Deliverables 2020 - 2021

Wear Catchment Partnership

Funded by Defra.

The Wear Rivers Trust (WRT) has hosted the Wear Catchment Partnership (WCP) since its inception in 2011. The WCP continues to develop and attract new members. The Steering Group comprises: WRT, Heritage Coast Partnership (Chair), Environment Agency, Durham County Council, Sunderland City Council, Durham Wildlife Trust, North Pennines AONB Partnership, Groundwork North East and Cumbria, Northumbrian Water Group, Durham University, Durham Cathedral, The Auckland Project, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, Sustainability North East and East Durham College.

The WCP exists to plan, co-ordinate and deliver integrated environmental projects, delivering multiple benefits with greatest efficiency. The WCP is referenced in many of the projects delivered and developed during 2020/21. The Partnership remains a key strategic priority for WRT to most effectively achieve its charitable objectives by identifying and working on common priorities with a diverse range of partners.

Beechburn Beck Fish Pass Feasibility Project

Funded by the Environment Agency

A previous study identified significant barriers to fish, large areas of contaminated ground, habitat degradation, poor land management and water quality issues arising from Northumbrian Water sewage infrastructure.

The project undertook a feasibility and design study on 2 priority obstructions on Beechburn Beck and the design of baffles or alternative mitigation measures along the length of a concrete lined open culvert through Crook. The study explored practical interventions to improve fish passage to inform future capital works.

An application will be made to the Environment agency for construction funding in the financial year 2021-22.

Browney Natural Capital Project

Funded by the Environment Agency.

A 3 year project running from July 2020 to March 2023, primarily focussed on farm visits to identify sources and pathways for agricultural diffuse pollution, particularly phosphate and to identify and implement agreed mitigation measures. Water quality monitoring for phosphates on watercourses downstream of participating farms is an additional element. Ancillary activity includes identification and treatments of INNS and other habitat improvement opportunities eg tree planting and in-channel works. Access to farms during covid was disrupted as was the planned volunteer habitat improvement activity, which has been rolled forward to subsequent years as required.

It is expected that this project will align with a major planned Northumbrian Water project to address phosphates across the Browney cathment.

Cong Burn Channel Restoration Project

Funded by the Environment Agency.

The lowest section of Cong Burn flows through an open concrete channel through Chester le Street park between the flood defence culvert exit at Cone Terrace and the A167 road bridge. The design phase is complete and the Environment Agency has signed off on the flood risk status of the proposed channel design. The Environment Agency funded an investigation, 2020-21, into potential construction funding strategies. The project is on hold until construction funding can be secured

Topsoil

https://wear-rivers-trust.org.uk/topsoil
https://northsearegion.eu/topsoil/

Funded by European Union Interreg North Sea Region, Durham University and Northumbrian Water.

Running from November 2015, completing delivery December 2021 with full project completion March 2022.. The project was extended through Topsoil 2 "capitalization". The project timeline was further extended due to covid. The project comprises 16 different projects across 5 countries. WRT leads the UK1 local consortium which includes Durham University and Northumbrian Water. Durham University delivery is complete. The principal objective behind UK1 is to gain a greater understanding of surface-groundwater interactions within the Wear catchment. Opportunities to improve communication with key stakeholders, generating regulatory and direct integrated land and surface water and groundwater management benefits, are being pursued through the Wear Catchment Partnership. Durham County Council is talking to WRT about soil management, agricultural run-off, highway drainage sedimentation and flooding. Topsoil 2 is running from May 2020 to December 2021. The key themes of mitigating climate change through improved moisture retention, increasing drought resilience and reducing flood risk have been continued and amplified through Topsoil 2 collecting detailed soil health data from 3 local farms under different tillage techniques for promotion on a demonstrator farm basis to the wider farming community. Further funding is sought to create a long term data set and to use the 3 demonstrator farms as fora to positively engage farmers. supported by agronomists Agrii and Frontier Agriculture Ltd.

North Pennines: Carbon Connects

https://wear-rivers-trust.org.uk/carbon-connects
https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/cconnects-carbon-connects/

Funded by European Union Interreg North West Europe Region

The North Pennines AONB Partnership is lead partner with WRT as supporting partner. This project became live in March 2018 and will run to December 2021, comprising 9 projects across 6 countries. The project consists of 3 elements. The North Pennines AONB, with WRT support, are restoring a pilot peatland area, currently with the "wrong" vegetation and measure improvements to carbon sequestration and will engage with farmers to promote blanket bog restoration through Countryside Stewardship. WRT, with North Pennines AONB support, has worked to establish a local supply chain for peatland restoration plants (sphagnum, cotton grass, shrub species). Given the scale of the upland peat restoration effort, demand for restoration plant material exceeds supply, limiting restoration delivery and increasing delivery risk.

WRT is working to establish a demonstration farm to explore the concept of" Maximum Sustainable Output" where livestock production is matched to natural grass availability on a low input/output basis. This is a profit-centred rather than production-centred business model. Resultant environmental benefits open up the opportunity for farms to diversify income streams through the protection of Natural Capital and payments for ecosystem services.

A project extension or "capitalization" has been secured to September 2023, with WRT as a full partner, which focusses on marketing carbon storage through improved peatland land management to the private corporate sector, diversifying farm incomes.

Alderdene/Lanchester Natural Flood Management

Funded by Durham County Council (DCC) and Durham Woodland Revival.

Overland flood pathways were identified and mapped by drone flyover through a Durham University MSc project. This information was used to engage with farmers and secure their agreement for measures designed to interrupt flow pathways, temporarily store water and slow down in-channel flows. This was a 3 phase programme. Phase 1 was completed in 2018-19. Phase 2 barrier hedge planting was disrupted due to Covid 19 late winter/spring 2020 and was successfully rolled into 2020-21 phase 3 deliver activity which has been completed.

Cool Waters Project

Funded by the Woodland Trust and Postcode Local.

Agreed in 2018, to run 2019 to 2023 will increase riverbank tree cover. Further funding in the region of £150K will be required to plant 22,500 trees, creating 9 ha of new riparian woodland habitat, along 15kms of riverbank, over the initial 4 year life of the project, which is designed to be open-ended and is aligned to an open-ended Wear Invasive Non-Native Species management project.
The riparian zone plays a critical role in keeping water temperatures cool. It is predicted that climate change will lead to an increase in both air and water temperatures of around 2 - 4C by 2050 (Environment Agency, 2016). In areas where there is little riparian tree cover the project will lead to significant impacts on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Steps are therefore needed to ensure water temperatures are kept cool, especially for cold water species such as Brown Trout and Atlantic Salmon. 3 these sites were planted in 2019/20, with focused volunteer effort from angling clubs and community groups, the 2020-21 planting season was disrupted with the Covid lock down. Funders understand the situation and activity has been deferred to the 2021-22 season

Wear Invasive Non-Native Species (WINNS) Project

Funding: Various, including an Enforcement Undertaking, Postcode Local and NWL Branchout

The initial programme from January 2019 was completed in Oct 2020, despite having experienced delay through Covid lockdown and staff furlough. INNS records continue to be collated. A Wear INNS Strategic Management Plan developed, linked into the wider North East England regional INNS strategy. The Wear element of the regional strategy is coordinated through the Wear Catchment Partnership. Additional funding was successfully secured to plan activity for the 2021 season with a focus of activity planned to be Durham Peninsula in partnership, in support of the proposed World Heritage Site extension with principal landowners: Durham County Council, Durham University and Durham Cathedral. WINNS will continue to be aligned with the Cool Waters project with farmer and landowner contact providing opportunities to both plant riparian trees and manage INNS.

INNS management is also included as an element of other projects, eg Environment Agency Water Environment Investment Fund(WEIF) projects

Given the long term nature of INNS management (est 5-10 years for effective treatment) the level of effort required increases as additional sites are taken into management. A range of funding applications are planned including to NWL's Water Environment Scheme.

Weardale Abandoned Metal Mines (WAMM) project: Containment of contaminated sediments from historic metal mines

Funded by The Coal Authority.

Lead mining and ore processing in C18th and C19th was water-powered, using heavily managed high energy streams. The historic structures holding back the resulting sediments are collapsing and discharging volumes of heavy metals into the water column. A detailed walkover and site assessment report covering the Killhope and Middlehope catchments was produced by WRT in 2016, identifying the most contaminated sites. Delivery of outstanding sites at Killhope, Cowhorse level Middlehope was completed over the Autumn/Winter of 2020. Further enabling works were completed at Cambokeels mine during 2020-21 in preparation for large scale Coal authority works to deal with point source pollution from the mine audit.

Further Coal Authority work is expected to be secured to contain sediments in the Rookhope valley, along with further investigation works at Cambokeels 2021-22

Natural Flood Management

Funded by the Environment Agency through the North Pennines AONB Partnership and Durham County Council.

A national NFM pilot in upper Weardale to demonstrate the use of soft "nature-like" river engineering and Natural Flood Management techniques at a landscape scale for several years. WRT's initial role in the project is now complete.

WRT has conducted NFM options appraisal to address flooding in the Sidehead-Westgate area for Durham County Council. Further NFM work is expected from both Durham County Council and the Environment Agency in Weardale during 2021-22.

Durham County Council appreciate the links between soil management, flooding and water quality and are working/discussing with WRT to apply Nature Based Solutions in several areas. This approach ties back into Topsoil, Cool Waters and Invasives Management.

Education

Funding: Various, including an Enforcement Undertaking, Postcode Local, Gaunless Gateway

Despite covid disruption to schools' operations, a series of John Muir Awards were delivered to primary schools in the Gaunless and Beechburn catchments catchment where learners explore nature, take action to conserve/enhance and to reflect on the experience. Schools chose from a menu of options across 5 day programmes.

Rivers Trust Secondment

Funded by the Rivers Trust

The part time secondment of the WRT IT Officer to the RT IT team, charged at a daily rate, has been a great success, building knowledge, expertise and networking and has benefitted WRT's reputation.

Covid 19 Impact

Covid 19 has had a significant impact on Trust operations 2020-21 interrupting delivery due to lockdown with most of the staff team furloughed for between 3 and 5 months during the Spring and Summer of 2020, with restricted use and availability of volunteers over the period.

The ambition to diversify funding, reducing reliance on project-specific funding has been severely disrupted as all business and community sectors have struggled with the pandemic.

Covid has led to the WRT staff team becoming fully home-based, with the office vacated in August 2020, reducing overheads, but incurring additional homeworking and travel costs. Home based working is working well with regular contact via Teams and telephone including monthly virtual team meetings. It has been a priority to identify and mitigate any developing social isolation.

Financial review
Financial position
Incoming resources for the year (12 month period) were £327,512 (2020: £289,789, there was an increase. Total reserves for the year £191,357 (2020: £298,538).

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to 6 months average expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves was exceeded at the year end.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The charity was established in 2010 under a Memorandum of Association which defines its objects and powers and is governed by its Articles of Association.

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

Dr Martyn C Lucas
Dr Ceri Gibson
Mr Robert Kirton-Darling
Mr Neil Ashforth
Mr Darron Nixon
Ms Joyce Moxon
Mr George Gerring
Mr David Hutchinson

The charity is governed by the Trustees who are recruited based on their expertise and are local community activists. Trustees are appointed by board resolution. Trustees meet on a regular, basis to oversee Trust governance, project development and delivery, financial management and any other issues of importance to ensure progress is made in line with the organisation's aims and objectives.

None of the Trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 each in the event of a winding up.

Trustees continually assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed. They are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The Wear Rivers Trust is reviewing the governance file comprising all relevant policies and procedures. Internal risks are minimised by the separation of duties with authorisation procedures in place for all transactions.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

04260195 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1094613

Registered office

Ground Floor
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Trustees

N Ashforth
G W J Gerring
Dr C A Gibson
R Kirton-Darling
Dr M C Lucas
Ms J Moxon
D M Nixon
D Hutchinson

Company Secretary

N Ashforth

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

David Holloway
BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Ribchesters
Chartered Accountants
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 17 December 2021 and signed on the board's behalf by:

M.C. Lucas
M.C. Lucas (Dec 13, 2021 16:19 GMT)

Dr M C Lucas - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WEAR RIVERS TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 04260195)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Wear Rivers Trust ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of BA (Hons) FCA DChA which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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



David Holloway
BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Ribchesters
Chartered Accountants
Finchale House
Belmont Business Park
Durham
DH1 1TW

17 December 2021

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		437	-	437	1,079
Charitable activities					
Conservation and Protection		41,400	286,112	327,512	289,789
Other trading activities	2	(335)	-	(335)	335
Investment income	3	87	-	87	1,312
Other income		-	-	-	59,219
Total		41,589	286,112	327,701	351,734
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Conservation and Protection		106,184	328,698	434,882	337,217
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(64,595)	(42,586)	(107,181)	14,517
Transfers between funds	12	(10,000)	10,000	-	-
Net movement in funds		(74,595)	(32,586)	(107,181)	14,517
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		122,492	176,046	298,538	284,021
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		47,897	143,460	191,357	298,538

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	4,153	-	4,153	4,221
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	51,833	37,570	89,403	202,728
Cash at bank		-	131,542	131,542	128,787
		51,833	169,112	220,945	331,515
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(8,091)	(25,650)	(33,741)	(37,198)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		43,742	143,462	187,204	294,317
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		47,895	143,462	191,357	298,538
NET ASSETS		47,895	143,462	191,357	298,538
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				47,895	122,492
Restricted funds				143,462	176,046
TOTAL FUNDS				191,357	298,538

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 December 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

M.C. Lucas

M.C. Lucas (Dec 13, 2021 16:19 GMT)

M C Lucas - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

WEAR RIVERS TRUST

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	4,194	(91,823)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		4,194	(91,823)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,526)	(575)
Interest received		87	1,312
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		(1,439)	737
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		2,755	(91,086)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		128,787	219,873
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		131,542	128,787

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(107,181)	14,517
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,594	1,625
Interest received	(87)	(1,312)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	113,325	(90,726)
Decrease in creditors	(3,457)	(15,927)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	4,194	(91,823)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.20	Cash flow	At 31.3.21
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank	128,787	2,755	131,542
	128,787	2,755	131,542
Total	128,787	2,755	131,542

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be qualified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

- Investment income is recognised when receivable.

- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration for its performance.

- Grants, where entitlement is not conditional or related to the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

- Sponsorship income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities on the date of receipt.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as the liability is incurred. Expenditure includes irrecoverable input VAT, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

- Other expenditure includes those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity

- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	-	25% on reducing balance

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting
Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Going concern
The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. The trustees have considered the financial position and performance of the charity including a review of future cash flows. They are confident that the charity is in a position to meet its commitments from those cash flows. They have therefore adopted the going concern principle.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other services provided	(335)	335

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest receivable	87	1,312

4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020
	£	£
Independent Examiners Fee	1,920	1,800
Depreciation - owned assets	1,594	1,625

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

continued...

6. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Average number of Staff	8	8

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	76	1,003	1,079
Charitable activities			
Conservation and Protection	19,377	270,412	289,789
Other trading activities	150	185	335
Investment income	1,312	-	1,312
Other income	59,219	-	59,219
Total	80,134	271,600	351,734
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Conservation and Protection	32,460	304,757	337,217
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	47,674	(33,157)	14,517
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	74,816	209,205	284,021
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	122,490	176,048	298,538

continued...

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2020	13,903	1,750	15,653
Additions	3,014	(1,488)	1,526
At 31 March 2021	16,917	262	17,179
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2020	11,242	190	11,432
Charge for year	1,522	72	1,594
At 31 March 2021	12,764	262	13,026
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2021	4,153	-	4,153
At 31 March 2020	2,661	1,560	4,221

9. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	22,486	12,285
Prepayments and accrued income	66,917	190,443
	89,403	202,728

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	27,043	23,671
Social security and other taxes	4,748	4,203
Other creditors	-	1,458
Accruals and deferred income	1,950	7,866
	33,741	37,198

11. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Within one year	5,415	5,907
Between one and five years	-	5,415
	5,415	11,322

continued...

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	122,492	(64,597)	(10,000)	47,895
Restricted funds				
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	11,835	(11,835)	-	-
Metal Mines	-	1,060	-	1,060
Weardale Natural flood management	1,785	(11,785)	10,000	-
CaBa 18/19	145	659	-	804
Carbon Connects	-	14,401	-	14,401
WCP Business Development	29,621	(14,384)	-	15,237
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	49,190	(15,934)	-	33,256
Cool Waters	8,335	6,309	-	14,644
Metal Mines Cambokeels	47	630	-	677
Sunderland City Council	6,272	(1,042)	-	5,230
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	67,950	(13,183)	-	54,767
Smallhope & Upper Cong Burn Optioneering	493	(493)	-	-
James Knott "Our River Wear in Schools"	373	(373)	-	-
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	-	431	-	431
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	-	1,725	-	1,725
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	-	1,230	-	1,230
	176,046	(42,584)	10,000	143,462
TOTAL FUNDS	298,538	(107,181)	-	191,357

continued...

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	41,588	(106,185)	(64,597)
Restricted funds			
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	10,803	(22,638)	(11,835)
Metal Mines	134,337	(133,277)	1,060
Weardale Natural flood management	(10,000)	(1,785)	(11,785)
CaBa 18/19	14,999	(14,340)	659
Carbon Connects	55,376	(40,975)	14,401
Cong Burn Restoration Project phase 1 18/19	22,375	(22,375)	-
WCP Business Development	-	(14,384)	(14,384)
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	-	(15,934)	(15,934)
Cool Waters	21,714	(15,405)	6,309
Metal Mines Cambokeels	2,250	(1,620)	630
Sunderland City Council	-	(1,042)	(1,042)
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	(13,183)	(13,183)
Smallhope & Upper Cong Burn Optioneering	-	(493)	(493)
James Knott "Our River Wear in Schools"	-	(373)	(373)
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	17,319	(16,888)	431
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	13,939	(12,214)	1,725
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	3,001	(1,771)	1,230
	286,113	(328,697)	(42,584)
TOTAL FUNDS	327,701	(434,882)	(107,181)

continued...

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	74,816	47,676	122,492
Restricted funds			
Brancepeth Beck 17/18	194	(194)	-
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	61,125	(49,290)	11,835
EA Access	283	(283)	-
Living Waterways	5,055	(5,055)	-
Metal Mines	17,937	(17,937)	-
Weardale Natural flood management	16,815	(15,030)	1,785
CaBa 18/19	634	(489)	145
Carbon Connects	2,858	(2,858)	-
Cong Burn Restoration Project phase 1 18/19	278	(278)	-
WCP Business Development	27,818	1,803	29,621
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	50,726	(1,536)	49,190
Cool Waters	9,526	(1,191)	8,335
Newhouse Burn/Greencroft Estate	1,737	(1,737)	-
Gaunless Northern Heartlands/AAP	7,903	(7,903)	-
Gaunless Greggs/NWL/SB	3,297	(3,297)	-
Gaunless HLF	3,019	(3,019)	-
Metal Mines Cambokeels	-	47	47
Sunderland City Council	-	6,272	6,272
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	67,950	67,950
Smallhope & Upper Cong Burn Optioneering	-	493	493
James Knott "Our River Wear in Schools"	-	373	373
	209,205	(33,159)	176,046
TOTAL FUNDS	284,021	14,517	298,538

continued...

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	80,134	(32,458)	47,676
Restricted funds			
Brancepeth Beck 17/18	-	(194)	(194)
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	45,842	(95,132)	(49,290)
EA Access	-	(283)	(283)
Living Waterways	-	(5,055)	(5,055)
Metal Mines	-	(17,937)	(17,937)
Weardale Natural flood management	-	(15,030)	(15,030)
CaBa 18/19	-	(489)	(489)
Carbon Connects	15,149	(18,007)	(2,858)
Storymaps 18/19	5,126	(5,126)	-
Cong Burn Restoration Project phase 1 18/19	-	(278)	(278)
WCP Business Development	-	1,803	1,803
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	-	(1,536)	(1,536)
Cool Waters	14,000	(15,191)	(1,191)
Newhouse Burn/Greencroft Estate	-	(1,737)	(1,737)
Gaunless Northern Heartlands/AAP	-	(7,903)	(7,903)
Gaunless Greggs/NWL/SB	-	(3,297)	(3,297)
Gaunless HLF	-	(3,019)	(3,019)
Metal Mines	39,416	(39,416)	-
Metal Mines Cambokeels	11,377	(11,330)	47
Sunderland City Council	-	6,272	6,272
Cong Burn Restoration Phase 2 19/20	30,605	(30,605)	-
CaBa 19/20	15,000	(15,000)	-
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	70,000	(2,050)	67,950
Smallhope & Upper Cong Burn Optioneering	20,000	(19,507)	493
James Knott "Our River Wear in Schools"	5,085	(4,712)	373
	271,600	(304,759)	(33,159)
TOTAL FUNDS	351,734	(337,217)	14,517

continued...

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	74,816	(16,921)	(10,000)	47,895
Restricted funds				
Brancepeth Beck 17/18	194	(194)	-	-
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	61,125	(61,125)	-	-
EA Access	283	(283)	-	-
Living Waterways	5,055	(5,055)	-	-
Metal Mines	17,937	(16,877)	-	1,060
Weardale Natural flood management	16,815	(26,815)	10,000	-
CaBa 18/19	634	170	-	804
Carbon Connects	2,858	11,543	-	14,401
Cong Burn Restoration Project phase 1 18/19	278	(278)	-	-
WCP Business Development	27,818	(12,581)	-	15,237
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	50,726	(17,470)	-	33,256
Cool Waters	9,526	5,118	-	14,644
Newhouse Burn/Greencroft Estate	1,737	(1,737)	-	-
Gaunless Northern Heartlands/AAP	7,903	(7,903)	-	-
Gaunless Greggs/NWL/SB	3,297	(3,297)	-	-
Gaunless HLF	3,019	(3,019)	-	-
Metal Mines Cambokeels	-	677	-	677
Sunderland City Council	-	5,230	-	5,230
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	-	54,767	-	54,767
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	-	431	-	431
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	-	1,725	-	1,725
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	-	1,230	-	1,230
	209,205	(75,743)	10,000	143,462
TOTAL FUNDS	284,021	(92,664)	-	191,357

continued...

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	121,722	(138,643)	(16,921)
Restricted funds			
Brancepeth Beck 17/18	-	(194)	(194)
Interreg North Sea Region Topsoil Project	56,645	(117,770)	(61,125)
EA Access	-	(283)	(283)
Living Waterways	-	(5,055)	(5,055)
Metal Mines	134,337	(151,214)	(16,877)
Weardale Natural flood management	(10,000)	(16,815)	(26,815)
CaBa 18/19	14,999	(14,829)	170
Carbon Connects	70,525	(58,982)	11,543
Storymaps 18/19	5,126	(5,126)	-
Cong Burn Restoration Project phase 1 18/19	22,375	(22,653)	(278)
WCP Business Development	-	(12,581)	(12,581)
Wapping Burn Restoration Project EEU	-	(17,470)	(17,470)
Cool Waters	35,714	(30,596)	5,118
Newhouse Burn/Greencroft Estate	-	(1,737)	(1,737)
Gaunless Northern Heartlands/AAP	-	(7,903)	(7,903)
Gaunless Greggs/NWL/SB	-	(3,297)	(3,297)
Gaunless HLF	-	(3,019)	(3,019)
Metal Mines	39,416	(39,416)	-
Metal Mines Cambokeels	13,627	(12,950)	677
Sunderland City Council	-	5,230	5,230
Cong Burn Restoration Phase 2 19/20	30,605	(30,605)	-
CaBa 19/20	15,000	(15,000)	-
Browney RDP (Crook EEU)	70,000	(15,233)	54,767
Smallhope & Upper Cong Burn Optioneering	20,000	(20,000)	-
James Knott "Our River Wear in Schools"	5,085	(5,085)	-
EA Beechburn Beck Feasibility Project	17,319	(16,888)	431
EA Smallhope Burn Natural Capital Project	13,939	(12,214)	1,725
DCC Westgate/Sidehead NFM	3,001	(1,771)	1,230
	557,713	(633,456)	(75,743)
TOTAL FUNDS	679,435	(772,099)	(92,664)

continued...

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021.