

# ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET

England & Wales · Charity number 1120725

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2007-08-31

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Avebury  
Elcot Park  
Marlborough  
Marlborough  
SN8 2BG

**Phone** 01672 512700

**Email** [info@kennetandpang.org](mailto:info@kennetandpang.org)

**Website** [www.kennetandpang.org](http://www.kennetandpang.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 1) TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, REHABILITATE AND IMPROVE THE RIVERS, STREAMS, WATERCOURSES AND WATER IMPOUNDMENTS OF THE CATCHMENTS COMPRISING THE RIVER KENNET AND ITS TRIBUTARIES INCLUDING ADJACENT RIVER CATCHMENTS, ESTUARINE AND COASTAL AREAS.2) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC, CORPORATIONS, SCHOOLS OR ANY ASSOCIATION, LOCAL AUTHORITY, ADMINISTRATIVE OR GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY OR PUBLIC BODY OR REPRESENTATIVE BODY IN:A) THE UNDERSTANDING OF RIVERS, RIVER CORRIDORS AND CATCHMENTS, INCLUDING THEIR FAUNA, FLORA AND ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL ACTIVITYB) THE UNDERSTANDING OF RIVER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENTC) THE NEED FOR, AND BENEFITS OF, CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS.

**Activities:** To conserve, protect, rehabilitate and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the River Kennet and its tributaries including adjacent river catchments, estuarine and coastal areas.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED IN PRACTICE, WILTSHIRE, BERKSHIRE, SOMERSET.
- West Berkshire
- Wiltshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£559,055	£512,783	£555,973	6
2024-03-31	£196,005	£410,864	-	-
2023-03-31	£579,391	£505,105	£721,782	5
2022-03-31	£673,407	£453,569	£650,561	6
2021-03-31	£313,285	£166,058	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>RICHARD CLARKE</b>	Chair	2016-12-07
David Hill		2021-12-09
Judith Pauline Pitts		2021-12-09
Martin Gibson		

**ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120725

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# Accounts

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**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**Action for the River Kennet**

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 March 2025**

Name: Action for the River Kennet  
Also known as: ARK  
Charity number: 1120725

Address: Avebury  
Elcot Park  
Marlborough SN8 2BG

Director: Charlotte Hitchmough

Trustees: Richard Clarke Chairman  
Martin Gibson Treasurer  
Judy Pitts  
David Hill

Officers: Technical advisor – John Lawson  
Ecological advisor – Peter Marren

Other Committee members: Rob Starr  
Sam Marshall

River Habitat advisor: John Hounslow

Independent Examiners David Owen & Co  
126 High Street  
Marlborough SN8 1LZ

Investment advisors: Charles Stanley  
55 Bishopsgate  
London EC2N 3AS

Bankers: CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 4JQ

**Structure and Governance**

The charity is constituted as a trust governed by a constitution. Trustees are elected annually by the members.

**Action for the River Kennet**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 March 2025**

**Objectives and activities**

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are:

- to conserve, protect, restore, and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the River Kennet and its tributaries including adjacent river catchments.
- to advance the education of the public in the management and understanding of water.

We are driven by a vision of healthy chalk streams supporting abundant native wildlife, enjoyed and valued by people. We want to see all rivers and freshwater in our catchments flowing freely and teeming with wildlife for all who depend on them.

Our principal geographic areas of activity are the Kennet and South Chilterns operational catchments.

We believe that the natural environment can sustain and inspire people, making us happier and healthier and we endeavour to engage with our communities and re-connect them with their local river.

The roots of our charity are in the communities around the rivers we work on and, at a time when there is unprecedented concern and interest in rivers, our focus is on positive action to achieve improvement.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. Activities to further our purposes for public benefit include:

- designing and managing river restoration projects to improve the physical habitat of rivers
- running activities for schools to help students learn about the chalk stream environments and ecology
- hosting walks along the River Kennet available for the public and our members
- influencing communities and policy makers to encourage the sustainable use of water.
- collecting, analysing and presenting data to demonstrate the health of the river
- providing opportunities and training to enable people take part in volunteer work in and by the river.
- advising and working with farmers, land managers and homeowners on ways to minimise their impact on rivers.

We meet regularly with our members, stakeholders and environmental bodies and engage in policy consultations about fresh water and chalkstreams. Our newsletter is published at least once each year.

The charity supports the catchment based approach and hosts the Kennet Catchment Partnership and co-hosts the South Chilterns Catchment Partnership.

**Achievements and Performance**

**Habitat restoration, citizen science and outreach**

During the last year our projects restored just over 4km of river, created 11.6 hectares of wetland, 30.8 hectares of new nature habitat including wet meadow and woodland, and planted more than 21,000 trees and plants. We installed sustainable drainage at 26 public and private properties. To inform future projects and monitor the success of existing work we carried out 19 water vole surveys, surveyed 2.3km of riverbank and collected over 100 water samples. Our incredible volunteers donated 2,369 hours of time and energy enabling us to deliver so much more than our core team of 5 staff could hope to achieve alone.

Our citizen scientists collected 400 riverfly surveys and took 120 water quality samples.

Our community outreach engaged 2,069 students and we presented talks or training at 17 events, where we reached more than 500 people.

We completed some of our most ambitious habitat restoration work to date, creating more resilient rivers, reducing the risk to communities from flooding, and increasing habitat for wildlife from trout to lapwing.

**Financial summary**

Our total income increased to £559,056 (2024 – £196,005) putting us in a strong position to expand our staff team to deliver more in the coming year.

Unrestricted income, which can be used for general expenditure, was £137,296 (2024 - £76,246), with income from donations and memberships higher at £43,052 (2024 - £28,129). We received £28,000 (2024 - £28,000 ) of donations from Trusts and Foundations. Total income rose by £363,051 (2024 - rose by £383,386). Restricted funds carried forward reduced to £179,757 (2024 - £202,957) as we received payment for projects completed in previous years and received grants in advance of planned work.

In the year we had a increase on general funds of £69,534 (2024 – increase of £9,154). We had an operating surplus of £71,110 (2024 - surplus of £5,858). Our investments and cash produced an income of £18,225 (2024 - £2,314) due to our high project balances and the increase in bank interest rates. Our long term investments lost £1,576 in value (2024 – gain of £3,296) and were worth £72,574 (2024 - £73,273) at the financial year end. This continues to be a satisfactory performance and we remain resilient for the future.

The expansion of our geographic focus has opened new opportunities. Our activities continue to focus on positive practical action, alongside campaigning against pollution, over-abstraction and habitat loss to ensure that the chalk streams in our catchments are protected.

My grateful thanks to all the Trusts, businesses, grant funders and individual supporters who have funded our work in the last year. Particular thanks to the landowners, farmers and homeowners who have allowed us to work on their land for the benefit of the river.

The staff team have worked extraordinarily hard over the last year and I extend my grateful thanks to them and the Trustees and the Executive Committee for their dedication, enthusiasm and support. I would also like to thank the many members and volunteers who have made ARK so effective. In an era when rivers are under pressure from climate change, population increase, pollution and abstraction your support is needed more than ever.



Charlotte Hitchmough

**Director**

**Action for the River Kennet**

## **Statement of Trustees Responsibilities**

### **For the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

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

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 March 2025

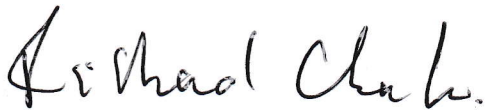
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds	Prior period Total funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations		43,052	-	43,052	28,129
Grants		57,844	421,760	479,604	156,634
Other trading activities		18,175	-	18,175	8,928
Investments	Note 3	18,225	-	18,225	2,314
<b>Total</b>	Note 2, 13	<b>137,296</b>	<b>421,760</b>	<b>559,056</b>	<b>196,005</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		12,835	-	12,835	9,053
Charitable activities		49,306	444,960	494,266	398,968
Governance		3,930	-	3,930	2,843
<b>Total</b>	Note 4	<b>66,071</b>	<b>444,960</b>	<b>511,031</b>	<b>410,864</b>
Net realised gains/(losses) on investments		(176)	-	(176)	(519)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>71,049</b>	<b>(23,200)</b>	<b>47,849</b>	<b>(215,378)</b>
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments		(1,576)	-	(1,576)	3,296
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>69,473</b>	<b>(23,200)</b>	<b>46,273</b>	<b>(212,082)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		306,743	202,957	509,700	721,782
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	Note 13	<b>376,216</b>	<b>179,757</b>	<b>555,973</b>	<b>509,700</b>

Action for the River Kennet

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

		2025	2024
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	Note 9	79,753	86,062
Investments	Note 10	<u>72,574</u>	<u>73,273</u>
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>152,327</b>	<b>159,335</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	Note 11	3,050	30,446
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>460,116</u>	<u>376,181</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>463,166</b>	<b>406,627</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	Note 12	<u>(59,520)</u>	<u>(56,262)</u>
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		<b>403,646</b>	<b>350,365</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>555,973</b>	<b>509,700</b>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted funds	Note 14	376,216	306,743
Restricted funds	Note 13	<u>179,757</u>	<u>202,957</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>555,973</b>	<b>509,700</b>

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees



Richard Clarke



Martin Gibson

Date: 30-10-25

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### (a) Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities SORP and the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102). The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

The company has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small entity.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The trustees have considered the financial position, forecasts and cash flows of the organisation and are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

##### (b) Depreciation

Equipment is depreciated at 10%-25% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives. Vehicles and computer equipment are depreciated at 25% per annum.

##### (c) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. Restricted fund are set out in note 13 to the financial statements.

##### (d) Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core financing or are of general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, actual cash receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Such income is only restricted when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income is recognised on a received basis.

(e) **Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with restoration and improvement of the River Kennet including research, education and vocational training and the dissemination of information.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

(f) **Grants awarded**

Grants are awarded to other conservation organisations, who have agreed a partnership in order to undertake direct, on the ground conservation projects, that achieve the objectives of ARK.

(g) **Pension costs**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the unrestricted fund as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

(h) **Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities at the year end are converted into sterling at the year end rate. Any loss or gain on foreign currency conversion is charged to overhead expenses as incurred.

(i) **Volunteers and donated services and facilities**

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from our suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

(j) **Taxation**

As a registered charity, the company is exempt from liability to corporation tax on its charitable activities.

(k) **Leasing arrangements**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the unrestricted reserves on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 2 Income from charitable activities

	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds	£	Funds	Funds	£
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants received	57,844	421,760	479,604	36,875	119,759	156,634
Membership and donations	43,052	-	43,052	28,129	-	28,129
Trading income	18,175	-	18,175	8,928	-	8,928
Investment income	18,225	-	18,225	2,314	-	2,314
	<u>137,296</u>	<u>421,760</u>	<u>559,056</u>	<u>76,246</u>	<u>119,759</u>	<u>196,005</u>

Of the unrestricted income of £137,296 (2024 - £76,246), £36,875 (2024 - £16,875) was a grant from the Environment Agency (EA) to fund the charity's Catchment Management hosting role.

#### 3 Investment income

Of the investment income of £18,225 (2024 - £2,314), £2,265 (2024 - £2,208) arose from investments held with our Investment Advisor and £15,960 (2024 - £106) was interest received from bank deposits.

#### 4 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities and costs of generating funds

	Costs of generating funds	Charitable activities	Support costs	Governance costs	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	12,015	125,603	20,014	3,530	161,162	146,625
Projects and activities	820	316,693	-	-	317,513	231,104
Administration costs	-	-	25,123	400	25,523	24,950
Depreciation	-	5,936	897	-	6,833	8,185
Reallocation of support costs	-	46,034	(46,034)	-	-	-
	<u>12,835</u>	<u>494,266</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,930</u>	<u>511,031</u>	<u>410,864</u>

#### 5 Analysis of governance and support costs

The charity initially identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Having identified its governance costs, the remaining support costs are allocated to the costs of the charitable activities. Allocations of costs, in particularly staff costs, are based on time records but the charity does not have a detailed time recording system as this would be too onerous, so estimates are made.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 6 Net expenditure for the year

Net expenditure for the year is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	6,833	8,185
Independent Accountants fees	400	400

#### 7 Staff costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Total remuneration:		
Salaries	144,169	136,138
Social security costs	8,604	3,263
Pension costs	8,260	6,820
Life assurance	129	129
	<u>161,162</u>	<u>146,350</u>

The average number of persons employed by the company was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Management	1	1
Project Officer	3	3
Administration	1	1

The emoluments of highest paid member of staff were in the range £40,000- £50,000 (2024 - £30,000 - £40,000 ): pension contributions of £3,708 (2024 - £3,474) were made for this person.

#### 8 Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No remuneration or expenses were paid to the trustees or committee during the year, except as detailed below.

No director or trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2024 – £nil), save as below.

Martin Gibson is a trustee of the GC Gibson Charitable Trust which has given an unrestricted donation of £6,000 (2024 - £5,000) to the charity.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 9 Tangible fixed assets

	Land	Computer and plant equipment	Vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost:				
At 1 April 2024	76,563	18,887	24,105	119,555
Additions in year		525		525
At 31 March 2025	76,563	19,412	24,105	120,080
Depreciation:				
At 1 April 2024	-	14,913	18,580	33,493
Charge for the year	-	1,309	5,525	6,834
At 31 March 2025	-	16,222	24,105	40,327
Net book value:				
At 31 March 2025	76,563	3,190	-	79,753
At 31 March 2024	76,563	3,974	5,525	86,062

The land was acquired in 2012 and has not been revalued. The land is owned jointly with Marlborough Town Council. It is not considered relevant or beneficial to revalue the land except to provide for any diminution of value.

#### 10 Investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Investments at valuation 1 April 2024	73,273	68,568
Acquired at cost in year	8,362	7,410
Disposals at original cost in year	(7,485)	(6,001)
Revaluation gain/(loss) in year	(1,576)	3,296
Investments at valuation 31 March 2025	72,574	73,273

All investments are liquid quoted equities and debt instruments held at our stockbroker's nominee accounts.

#### 11 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts due within one year:		
Grants, invoices, subscriptions and donations	250	21,507
Prepayments and other debtors	2,800	8,939
	3,050	30,446

#### 12 Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Salaries and social security costs	7,079	3,057
Trade creditors	14,716	30,057
Accruals and other creditors	37,725	23,148
	59,520	56,262

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 13 Analysis of funding

Restricted Income in year to 31 March 2025	Balance b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Environment Agency	(10,118)	129,388	(106,983)	-	12,287
Amazon Web Services	42,150	-	(2,053)	11,922	52,019
North Wessex Down AONB	182	-	(182)	-	-
Defra, FIPL Fund, NWAONB	9,737	6,872	(6,388)	(12,313)	(2,092)
Defra Natural Flood Management	(45,590)	62,991	(16,197)	-	1,204
Natural England	(5,729)	574	(873)	6,028	-
Wiltshire Council, AONB, Lottery	30,809	-	(6,310)	(24,499)	-
Thames 21 Rivers Trust	1,868	-	-	(1,868)	-
Thames Water	(19,507)	67,500	(12,322)	(11,657)	24,014
EA and Thames Flood Forum	46,001	80,000	(148,165)	-	(22,164)
Thames Water Environmental Reparation Fine	121,243	-	(54,638)	(2,620)	63,985
Marlborough College	3,000	15,616	(15,351)	(738)	2,527
West Berkshire Council	3,476	-	(314)	(3,162)	-
Wiltshire Community Foundation	19,290	-	(829)	-	18,461
Sulham Estate	1,375	10,622	(26,656)	3,700	(10,959)
North Wessex and Heritage Lottery	-	42,661	(45,847)	(457)	(3,643)
North Wessex Down AONB and Marlborough Town	-	3,036	(2,847)	(189)	-
Thames Restoration Trust	-	2,500	(3,008)	508	-
Action for the River Kennet funds	-	-	-	32,227	32,227
Other organisations and individuals	4,770	-	4,003	3,118	11,891
	<u>202,957</u>	<u>421,760</u>	<u>(444,960)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>179,757</u>
Restricted Income in year to 31 March 2024	Balance b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Environment Agency	80,400	3,681	94,199	-	(10,118)
Amazon Web Services	54,654	(11,033)	1,471	-	42,150
North Wessex Down AONB	3,000	2,500	5,318	-	182
Defra, FIPL Fund, NWAONB	4,365	24,372	19,000	-	9,737
Defra Natural Flood Management	-	-	45,590	-	(45,590)
Natural England	4,224	3,000	12,953	-	(5,729)
Wiltshire Council, AONB, Lottery	31,328	33,695	34,214	-	30,809
Thames 21 Rivers Trust	1,968	1,000	1,100	-	1,868
Thames Water	52,610	28,995	55,112	-	26,493
Thames Water Environmental Reparation Fine	184,779	-	63,535	-	121,244
Marlborough College	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
West Berkshire Council	-	6,000	2,524	-	3,476
Wiltshire Community Foundation	-	19,290	-	-	19,290
Sulham Estate	-	5,259	3,884	-	1,375
Other organisations and individuals	6,865	-	2,095	-	4,770
	<u>424,193</u>	<u>119,759</u>	<u>340,995</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>202,957</u>

Income is accounted for on an as received basis and negative balances on certain project are carried forward where the charity is certain of receiving income following claims made.

Of the total restricted income of £421,760 (2024 - £119,759) grants from government agencies totalled £324,947 (2024 - £48,631).

Some restricted projects result in minor cost overruns and others in a surplus. Where there is a surplus we contact the funders to ask if the amount can be transferred to other projects. The net amount transferred in 2025 was £32,227 (2024-£nil). We have retained this as restricted funds to complete on nature restoration projects. Where there is an overall deficit the charity transfers funds from unrestricted funds to cover these. The amount in 2025 was £nil (2024 was £nil).

#### 14 Reserves

Of our total unrestricted funds of £376,216 (2024 - £306,743) we retain £120,000 (2024 - £100,000) as a reserve in cash, cash equivalents or readily realisable investments, which is approximately 9 months costs. It is intended that this would be used to wind the charity down should there no longer be a purpose which can or should be funded.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- state whether

Basis of independent

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew Coombes, FCCA  
Chartered Accountants  
David Owen & Co  
126 High Street  
Marlborough  
Wiltshire SN8 1LZ

Independent Examiner

Date:

**ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120725

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# Accounts

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**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Action for the River Kennet**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 March 2024**

Name: Action for the River Kennet  
Also known as: ARK  
Charity number: 1120725

Address: Avebury  
Elcot Park  
Marlborough SN8 2BG

Director: Charlotte Hitchmough

Patron: Lord Kennet

Trustees: Richard Clarke Chairman  
Martin Gibson Treasurer  
Judy Pitts  
David Hill

Officers: Technical advisor – John Lawson  
Ecological advisor – Peter Marren

Other Committee members: Rob Starr  
Sam Marshall

River Habitat advisor: John Hounslow

Investment advisors: Charles Stanley  
55 Bishopsgate  
London EC2N 3AS

Bankers: CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 4JQ

**Structure and Governance**

The charity is constituted as a trust governed by a constitution. Trustees are elected annually by the members.

**Action for the River Kennet**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 March 2024**

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of Action for the River Kennet ("ARK") are to conserve, protect, restore, and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the River Kennet and its tributaries including adjacent river catchments, estuarine and coastal areas.

Activities for the public benefit: ARK

- is committed to improving understanding of the Rivers in the Kennet and Pang catchments and increasing opportunities for people to enjoy them, whilst protecting the wildlife to which they are home. The Trustees have regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.
- creates, manages and raises funding for river improvement projects.
- organises and runs activities for schools to help students learn about the river environment and ecology.
- organises visits to and walks along the River Kennet.
- engages with schools, communities and policy makers to encourage the sustainable use of water.
- provides and analyses data to demonstrate the condition of the ecology of the river and brings this to the attention of public and other bodies.
- provides opportunities for people to carry out volunteer work in and by the river and trains citizen scientists to collect and record data.
- meets regularly with members, stakeholders and environmental bodies to brief them on the river catchment and responds to consultations about fresh water and chalkstreams.
- publishes regular newsletters informing its members about activities and river health.
- is part of delivering Water Framework Directive goals, supports the catchment based approach and hosts the Kennet Catchment Partnership and co-hosts the South Chilterns Catchment Partnership.
- works with and advises farmers, land managers and homeowners on ways to minimise their impact on rivers.

### **Achievements and Performance**

ARK has built on its success in 2023, with some of our most ambitious projects underway across the catchment. Projects carried forward from last year are either well under way or complete. Our funds have declined as we have worked on completing multi-year projects. Income returned to more normal levels following the impact of two large projects taken on last year.

Unrestricted income, which can be used for general expenditure, was £76,246 (2023 - £93,294), with income from donations and memberships lower at £28,129 (2023 - £37,761). We received £6,000 (2023 - £8,000) of donations from Trusts and Foundations. Total income was £196,005 (2023 - £579,391). Total funds fell by £212,082 (2023 - rose by £71,222). Restricted funds carried forward decreased to £202,957 (2023 - £424,193) as we completed projects taken on in the previous year.

In the year we had a increase on unrestricted funds of £9,154 (2023 – increase of £27,171). We had an operating surplus of £5,858 on unrestricted funds (2023 - surplus of £30,236). Our long term investments gained £3,296 in value (2023 – loss of £3,065) and were worth £73,273 (2023 - £68,568) at the financial year end. This continues to be a satisfactory performance and we remain resilient for the future.

We are a grass roots organisation, working with local communities to protect and restore their local rivers. Our geographic focus has recently expanded from the Kennet catchment to include the adjacent River Pang. Our activities continue to be a mix of campaigning and positive practical action. We campaign against pollution, over-abstraction and habitat loss to ensure that the chalk streams in our catchments are protected.

We have intensified our efforts to measure river water quality and to draw attention to the increasing threats from sewage spills and road runoff. In the last year we have been working with communities to measure coliforms in river water in addition to our existing range of chemical measurements. Our team of citizen scientists is also engaged in monitoring riverfly, water vole and brown trout population, filling gaps in knowledge and creating a valuable data record. Our engagement with farmers and landowners has led to some exciting projects to protect the water environment from farming impacts as well as increasing biodiversity. As a consequence of our workshops for farmers we have also seen an uptake in on-farm rain water harvesting and improvements in track management. This year our most ambitious practical projects included completing a large wetland at Wilton, Wiltshire and a river realignment on the River Og.

Education remains a key part of our activities and we have successfully diversified our funding sources to keep up with demand from schools and community groups. We work with well over 1,000 children each year, inspiring them to care for their rivers and the wildlife within them.


We host the Kennet Catchment Partnership and co-host the South Chilterns Catchment Partnership. Both are active and effective partnerships that are creating solutions to difficult challenges.

ARK is leading by example, developing effective, low cost, retrofit sustainable drainage ((SuDS) in public and private spaces to help reduce the load on the overburdened sewer network.

We continue to invest in robust data management so that we can safely store and interrogate the Riverfly and other data that our volunteers collect every month.

ARK continues to be grateful to our diverse and interested membership as well as our tireless volunteers, who now number more than 300. Corporate volunteering is an expanding area of activity and provides vital funds for us to continue to improve the rivers in the catchments we serve. We are well placed to discuss opportunities with Corporates and they all seem to derive huge positives from their engagement.

I would like to thank my colleagues, the Trustees and the Executive Committee for their hard work, enthusiasm and support. I would also like to thank the many members and volunteers who have made ARK so effective. All of our members contribute in a variety of ways and we and the animals, plants, fish and invertebrates of the Kennet and beyond owe them enormous gratitude.



Charlotte Hitchmough

**Director**

Date: 23 January 2025

## Action for the River Kennet

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds	Prior period Total funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations		28,129	-	28,129	37,761
Grants		36,875	119,759	156,634	532,305
Other trading activities		8,928	-	8,928	7,345
Investments	Note 3	2,314	-	2,314	1,980
<b>Total</b>	Note 2, 13	<b>76,246</b>	<b>119,759</b>	<b>196,005</b>	<b>579,391</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		9,053	-	9,053	8,391
Charitable activities		57,973	340,995	398,968	493,992
Governance		2,843	-	2,843	2,464
<b>Total</b>	Note 4	<b>69,869</b>	<b>340,995</b>	<b>410,864</b>	<b>504,847</b>
Net realised gains/(losses) on investments		(519)	-	(519)	(258)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>5,858</b>	<b>(221,236)</b>	<b>(215,378)</b>	<b>74,286</b>
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments		3,296	-	3,296	(3,065)
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>9,154</b>	<b>(221,236)</b>	<b>(212,082)</b>	<b>71,221</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		297,589	424,193	721,782	650,561
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	Note 13	<b>306,743</b>	<b>202,957</b>	<b>509,700</b>	<b>721,782</b>

**Action for the River Kennet**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024**

		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	Note 9	86,062	94,246
Investments	Note 10	<u>73,273</u>	<u>68,568</u>
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>159,335</b>	<b>162,814</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	Note 11	30,446	126,000
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>376,181</u>	<u>537,650</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>406,627</b>	<b>663,650</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	Note 12	<u>(56,262)</u>	<u>(104,682)</u>
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		<b>350,365</b>	<b>558,968</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>509,700</b>	<b>721,782</b>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted funds	Note 14	306,743	297,589
Restricted funds	Note 13	<u>202,957</u>	<u>424,193</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>509,700</b>	<b>721,782</b>

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees



Richard Clarke



Martin Gibson

Date: 23 January 2025

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### (a) Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities SORP and the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102). The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

The company has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small entity.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The trustees have considered the financial position, forecasts and cash flows of the organisation and are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

##### (b) Depreciation

Equipment is depreciated at 10%-25% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives. Vehicles and computer equipment are depreciated at 25% per annum.

##### (c) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. Restricted fund are set out in note 13 to the financial statements.

##### (d) Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core financing or are of general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, actual cash receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Such income is only restricted when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income is recognised on a received basis.

(e) **Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with restoration and improvement of the River Kennet including research, education and vocational training and the dissemination of information.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

(f) **Grants awarded**

Grants are awarded to other conservation organisations, who have agreed a partnership in order to undertake direct, on the ground conservation projects, that achieve the objectives of ARK.

(g) **Pension costs**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the unrestricted fund as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

(h) **Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities at the year end are converted into sterling at the year end rate. Any loss or gain on foreign currency conversion is charged to overhead expenses as incurred.

(i) **Volunteers and donated services and facilities**

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from our suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

(j) **Taxation**

As a registered charity, the company is exempt from liability to corporation tax on its charitable activities.

(k) **Leasing arrangements**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the unrestricted reserves on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 2 Income from charitable activities

	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants received	36,875	119,759	156,634	46,208	486,097	532,305
Membership and donations	28,129	-	28,129	37,761	-	37,761
Sundry income	11,242	-	11,242	9,325	-	9,325
	<u>76,246</u>	<u>119,759</u>	<u>196,005</u>	<u>93,294</u>	<u>486,097</u>	<u>579,391</u>

Of the unrestricted income of £76,246 (2023 - £93,294), £16,875 (2023 - £37,000) was a grant from the Environment Agency (EA) to fund the charity's Catchment Management hosting role.

#### 3 Investment income

Of the investment income of £2,314 (2023 - £1,980), all of it arose from investments held with our Investment Advisor. £106 (2023 - £2,252) of sundry income was interest received from bank deposits. Other government funding which is restricted is shown in Note 13 - Analysis of restricted income.

#### 4 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities and costs of generating funds

	Costs of generating funds	Charitable activities	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	8,624	121,409	14,149	2,443	146,625	145,052
Projects and activities	429	230,675	-	-	231,104	329,742
Administration costs	-	-	24,316	400	24,716	21,687
Depreciation	-	6,498	1,687	-	8,185	8,366
Reallocation of support costs	-	40,386	(40,386)	-	-	-
	<u>9,053</u>	<u>398,968</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,843</u>	<u>410,630</u>	<u>504,847</u>

#### 5 Analysis of governance and support costs

The charity initially identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Having identified its governance costs, the remaining support costs are allocated to the costs of the charitable activities. Allocations of costs, in particularly staff costs, are based on time records but the charity does not have a detailed time recording system as this would be too onerous, so estimates are made.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 6 Net expenditure for the year

Net expenditure for the year is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation	8,184	8,366
Independent Accountants fees	400	400

#### 7 Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Total remuneration:		
Salaries	136,138	127,769
Social security costs	3,263	10,262
Pension costs	6,949	7,021
	<u>146,350</u>	<u>145,052</u>

The average number of persons employed by the company was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Management	1	1
Project Officer	3	3
Administration	1	1

The emoluments of highest paid member of staff were in the range £30,000- £40,000 (2023 - £30,000 - £40,000 ): pension contributions of £3,474 (2023 - £3,128) were made for this person.

#### 8 Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No remuneration or expenses were paid to the trustees or committee during the year.

No director or trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2023 – £nil), save as below.

Martin Gibson is a trustee of the GC Gibson Charitable Trust which has given an unrestricted donation of £5,000 (2023 - £5,000) to the charity.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 9 Tangible fixed assets

	Land £	Computer and plant equipment £	Vehicles £	Total £
Cost:				
At 31 March 2023	76,563	18,887	24,105	119,555
At 31 March 2024	76,563	18,887	24,105	119,555
Depreciation:				
At 31 March 2023	-	12,754	12,554	25,309
Charge for the year	-	2,159	6,026	8,184
At 31 March 2024	-	14,913	18,580	33,493
Net book value:				
At 31 March 2024	76,563	3,974	5,525	86,062
At 31 March 2023	76,563	6,132	11,551	94,246

The land was acquired in 2012 and has not been revalued. The land is owned jointly with Marlborough Town Council. It is not considered relevant or beneficial to revalue the land except to provide for any diminution of value.

#### 10 Investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Investments at valuation 1 April	68,568	70,434
Acquired at cost in year	7,410	5,486
Disposals at original cost in year	(6,001)	(4,287)
Revaluation gain/(loss) in year	3,296	(3,065)
Investments at valuation 31 March	73,273	68,568

All investments are quoted equities and debt instruments held at our stockbroker's nominee accounts.

#### 11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts due within one year:		
Grants, invoices, subscriptions and donations	21,507	74,549
Prepayments and other debtors	8,939	51,451
	30,446	126,000

#### 12 Creditors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Salaries and social security costs	3,057	8,037
Trade creditors	30,057	73,497
Accruals and other creditors	23,148	23,148
	56,262	104,682

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 13 Analysis of funding

Restricted Income in year to 31 March 2024	Balance b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Environment Agency	80,400	3,681	94,199	-	(10,118)
Amazon Web Services	54,654	(11,033)	1,471	-	42,150
North Wessex Down AONB	3,000	2,500	5,318	-	182
Defra, FIPL Fund, NWAONB	4,365	24,372	19,000	-	9,737
Defra Natural Flood Management	-	-	45,590	-	(45,590)
Natural England	4,224	3,000	12,953	-	(5,729)
Wiltshire Council, AONB, Lottery	31,328	33,695	34,214	-	30,809
Thames 21 Rivers Trust	1,968	1,000	1,100	-	1,868
Thames Water	52,610	28,995	55,112	-	26,493
Thames Water Environmental Reparation Fine	184,779	-	63,535	-	121,244
Marlborough College	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
West Berkshire Council	-	6,000	2,524	-	3,476
Wiltshire Community Foundation	-	19,290	-	-	19,290
Sulham Estate	-	5,259	3,884	-	1,375
Other organisations and individuals	6,865	-	2,095	-	4,770
	<u>424,193</u>	<u>119,759</u>	<u>340,995</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>202,957</u>

Restricted Income in year to 31 March 2023	Balance b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Environment Agency	54,198	99,552	(73,350)	-	80,400
Amazon Web Services	-	173,527	(118,873)	-	54,654
North Wessex Down AONB	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Defra, FIPL Fund, NWAONB	-	124,244	(119,879)	-	4,365
Natural England	944	4,277	(997)	-	4,224
Wiltshire Council, AONB, Lottery	31,650	-	(322)	-	31,328
Wiltshire Council and Patsy Wood Trust	5,822	-	(5,822)	-	-
Thames 21 Rivers Trust	-	2,000	(32)	-	1,968
Thames Water	34,199	27,740	(10,554)	-	51,385
Thames Water Environmental Reparation	250,000	-	(65,221)	-	184,779
Thames Water DWMP Fund	-	9,000	(7,775)	-	1,225
Other organisations and individuals	(7,045)	42,756	(35,891)	7,045	6,865
Thames Rivers Trust - "Community Eel"	(2,422)	-	-	2,422	-
Co-op Community	3,331	-	(3,331)	-	-
Transfer from unrestricted funds to cover project losses	9,467	-	-	(9,467)	-
	<u>380,143</u>	<u>486,096</u>	<u>(442,047)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>424,193</u>

Income is accounted for on an as received basis and negative balances on certain project are carried forward where the charity is reasonable certain of receiving income following claims made.

Of the total restricted income of £119,759 (2023 - £486,096) grants from government agencies totalled £48,631 (2023 - £231,073).

The negative receipt from Amazon Web Services of £11,033 was a revision following a reassessment of the cost to complete the project. Some restricted projects result in minor cost overruns. The charity transfers funds from unrestricted funds to cover these. The amount in 2024 was £nil (2023 was £9,467).

#### 14 Reserves

Of our total unrestricted funds of £306,743 (2023 - £297,589) we retain £100,000 (2023 - £100,000) as a reserve in cash, cash equivalents or readily realisable investments, which is approximately 9 months costs. It is intended that this would be used to wind down the charity should there no longer be a purpose which can or should be funded.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 5 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- state whether

Basis of independent

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Vivien Bayne-Jardine FCA

Independent Examiner

Date: 23 January 2025

**ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120725

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# Accounts

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**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Action for the River Kennet**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023**

Name: Action for the River Kennet  
Also known as: ARK  
Charity number: 1120725

Address: Avebury  
Elcot Park  
Marlborough SN8 2BG

Director: Charlotte Hitchmough

Patron: Lord Kennet

Trustees: Richard Clarke Chairman  
Martin Gibson Treasurer  
Sean Dempster (resigned 11 October 2022)  
Judy Pitts (appointed 11 October 2022)  
David Hill (appointed 11 October 2022)

Officers: Technical advisor – John Lawson  
Ecological advisor – Peter Marren

Other Committee members: Rob Starr  
Sam Marshall

River Habitat advisor: John Hounslow

Investment advisors: Charles Stanley  
55 Bishopsgate  
London EC2N 3AS

Bankers: CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 4JQ

**Structure and Governance**

The charity is constituted as a trust governed by a constitution. Trustees are elected annually by the members.

**Action for the River Kennet**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023**

**Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of Action for the River Kennet ("ARK") are to conserve, protect, restore, and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the River Kennet and its tributaries including adjacent river catchments, estuarine and coastal areas.

Activities for the public benefit: ARK

- is committed to improving understanding of the Rivers in the Kennet and Pang catchments and increasing opportunities for people to enjoy them, whilst protecting the wildlife to which they are home. the Trustees have regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.
- creates, manages and raises funding for river improvement projects.
- organises and runs activities for schools to help students learn about the river environment and ecology.
- organises visits to and walks along the River Kennet.
- engages with schools, communities and policy makers to encourage the sustainable use of water.
- provides and analyses data to demonstrate the condition of the ecology of the river and brings this to the attention of public and other bodies.
- provides opportunities for people to carry out volunteer work in and by the river and trains citizen scientists to collect and record data.
- meets regularly with members, stakeholders and environmental bodies to brief them on the river catchment and responds to consultations about fresh water and chalkstreams.
- publishes regular newsletters informing its members about activities and river health.
- is part of delivering Water Framework Directive goals, supports the catchment based approach and hosts the Kennet Catchment Partnership and co-hosts the South Chilterns Catchment Partnership.
- works with and advises farmers, land managers and homeowners on ways to minimise their impact on rivers.

**Achievements and Performance**

ARK has retained two out of three of the temporary posts created through government's Green Recovery Challenge fund, this has enabled the charity to undertake more complex and ambitious projects, particularly the design and creation of wetlands.

Unrestricted income, which can be used for general expenditure, was £93,294 (2022 - £75,711), with income from donations and memberships lower at £37,761 (2022 - £53,989). We received £8,000 (2022 - £24,000) of donations from Trusts and Foundations. Total income dropped to £579,391 (2022 - £668,588). We received funding at the end of last year of £250,000 as a voluntary reparation resulting from a pollution incident and we have been working this year on habitat restoration projects in the lower reaches of the catchment. Total funds rose by £71,222 (2022 - £219,838). Restricted funds carried forward increased from £380,143 to £424,193.

In the year we had an increase on general funds of £27,171 (2022 –increase of £23,882). We had an operating gain of £30,236 (2022 - gain of £28,531) and our long term investments lost £3,065 in value (2022 – gain of £4,819) and were worth £68,568 (2022 - £70,434) at the financial year end.

We continue to campaign to ensure that the chalk stream habitat is protected from over-abstraction and pollution.

Having made good progress to reduce abstraction, leaving more water in the river to support wildlife in recent years, we have shifted our focus to improving water quality. We have done this by calling for a reduction in the volume of untreated raw sewage tipped into the river, working with Highways authorities to reduce road run off, and supporting further improvements in farming practices. To bolster evidence we have been collecting and reporting water quality data using a combination of our staff and volunteers. In addition, we have begun to design and build wetlands and sustainable drainage projects that will have a positive impact on water quality.

A portion of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund monies were used for feasibility and design for future projects, and using those plans we have been able so secure funds from other sources, including Farming in Protected Landscapes and commercial investment to create change on the ground.

Education remains a key part of our activities and we have had to diversity our funding sources to keep up with demand. There is still a waiting list for 'River School' and we will be putting effort into securing a more reliable funding stream to support this important work.

We are advocates of the Catchment Based Approach and continue to host the Kennet Catchment Partnership and co-host the South Chilterns Catchment Partnership, and both are effective and result in a better understanding of the water environment, which has lead to new projects funded by multiple partners.

We are creating more SuDS (Sustainable urban Drainage Systems) projects both in schools and the wider community. Demand for training through Rain Gardens UK exceeds our capacity to provide it.

We continue to invest in robust data management so that we can safely store and interrogate the Riverfly and other data that our volunteers collect every month.

ARK continues to be grateful to our diverse and interested membership as well as our tireless volunteers. Corporate volunteering is an expanding area of activity and provides vital funds for us to continue to improve the rivers in the catchments we serve.

I would like to thank my colleagues and the Executive Committee for their hard work, enthusiasm and support. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who have made ARK so effective. All of our members have contributed in a variety of ways and we and the animals, plants, fish and invertebrates of the Kennet and beyond owe them enormous gratitude.

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light beige background. The signature reads "Charlotte Hitchmough" in a cursive script.

Charlotte Hitchmough

**Director**

## Action for the River Kennet

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds	Prior period Total funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations		37,761	-	37,761	73,989
Grants		46,208	486,097	532,305	589,752
Other trading activities		7,345	-	7,345	2,886
Investments	Note 3	1,980	-	1,980	1,961
<b>Total</b>	Note 2, 13	<b>93,294</b>	<b>486,097</b>	<b>579,391</b>	<b>668,588</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		8,391	-	8,391	7,655
Charitable activities		51,945	442,047	493,992	443,577
Governance		2,464	-	2,464	2,313
<b>Total</b>	Note 4	<b>62,800</b>	<b>442,047</b>	<b>504,847</b>	<b>453,545</b>
Net realised gains/(losses) on investments		(258)	-	(258)	(24)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>30,236</b>	<b>44,050</b>	<b>74,286</b>	<b>215,019</b>
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments		(3,065)	-	(3,065)	4,819
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>27,171</b>	<b>44,050</b>	<b>71,221</b>	<b>219,838</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		270,418	380,143	650,561	430,723
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	Note 13	<b>297,589</b>	<b>424,193</b>	<b>721,782</b>	<b>650,561</b>

**Action for the River Kennet**

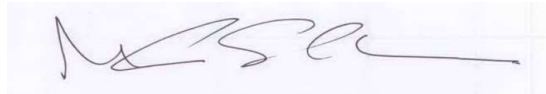
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023**

		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	Note 9	94,246	102,612
Investments	Note 10	<u>68,568</u>	<u>70,434</u>
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>162,814</b>	<b>173,046</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	Note 11	126,000	313,176
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>537,650</u>	<u>198,017</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>663,650</b>	<b>511,193</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	Note 12	<u>(104,682)</u>	<u>(33,678)</u>
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		<b>558,968</b>	<b>477,515</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>721,782</b>	<b>650,561</b>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted funds	Note 14	297,589	270,418
Restricted funds	Note 13	<u>424,193</u>	<u>380,143</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>721,782</b>	<b>650,561</b>

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees



Richard Clarke



Martin Gibson

Date: 10 October 2023

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### (a) Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities SORP and the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102). The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

The company has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small entity.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The trustees have considered the financial position, forecasts and cash flows of the organisation and are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

##### (b) Depreciation

Equipment is depreciated at 10%-25% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives.

##### (c) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. Restricted fund are set out in note 13 to the financial statements.

##### (d) Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core financing or are of general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Such income is only restricted when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

(e) **Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with restoration and improvement of the River Kennet including research, education and vocational training and the dissemination of information.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

(f) **Grants awarded**

Grants are awarded to other conservation organisations, who have agreed a partnership in order to undertake direct, on the ground conservation projects, that achieve the objectives of ARK.

(g) **Pension costs**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the unrestricted fund as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

(h) **Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities at the year end are converted into sterling at the year end rate. Any loss or gain on foreign currency conversion is charged to overhead expenses as incurred.

(i) **Volunteers and donated services and facilities**

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from our suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

(j) **Taxation**

As a registered charity, the company is exempt from liability to corporation tax on its charitable activities.

(k) **Leasing arrangements**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the unrestricted reserves on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 2 Income from charitable activities

	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants received	46,208	486,097	532,305	16,875	572,877	589,752
Membership and donations	37,761	-	37,761	53,989	20,000	73,989
Sundry income	9,325	-	9,325	4,847	-	4,847
	<u>93,294</u>	<u>486,097</u>	<u>579,391</u>	<u>75,711</u>	<u>592,877</u>	<u>668,588</u>

Of the unrestricted income of £93,294 (2022 - £75,711), £37,000 (2022 - £16,875) was a grant from the Environment Agency (EA) to fund the charity's Catchment Management hosting role.

#### 3 Investment income

Of the investment income of £1,980 (2022 - £1,961), all of it arose from investments held with our Investment Advisor. £2,252 (2022 - £61) of sundry income was interest received from bank deposits.

#### 4 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities and costs of generating funds

	Costs of generating funds	Charitable activities	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	8,215	120,515	13,858	2,464	145,052	158,359
Projects and activities	176	329,566	-	-	329,742	267,435
Administration costs	-	-	21,687	-	21,687	19,385
Depreciation	-	6,498	1,868	-	8,366	8,366
Reallocation of support costs	-	37,413	(37,413)	-	-	-
	<u>8,391</u>	<u>493,992</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,464</u>	<u>504,847</u>	<u>453,545</u>

#### 5 Analysis of governance and support costs

The charity initially identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Having identified its governance costs, the remaining support costs are allocated to the costs of the charitable activities. Allocations of costs, in particularly staff costs, are based on time records but the charity does not have a detailed time recording system as this would be too onerous, so estimates are made.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 6 Net expenditure for the year

Net expenditure for the year is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation	8,366	8,366
Independent Accountants fees	400	400

#### 7 Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Total remuneration:		
Salaries	127,769	141,289
Social security costs	10,262	8,156
Pension costs	7,021	8,914
	<u>145,052</u>	<u>158,359</u>

The average number of persons employed by the company was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Management	1	1
Project Officer	3	4
Administration	1	1

The emoluments of highest paid member of staff were in the range £30,000- £40,000 (2022 - £30,000 - £40,000 ): pension contributions of £3,128 (2022 - £3,189) were made for this person.

#### 8 Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No remuneration or expenses were paid to the trustees or committee during the year, except as detailed below.

No director or trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2022 – £nil), save as below.

Martin Gibson is a trustee of the GC Gibson Charitable Trust which has given an unrestricted donation of £5,000 (2022 - £5,000) to the charity.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 9 Tangible fixed assets

	Land	Computer and plant equipment	Vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost:				
At 31 March 2022	76,563	18,887	24,105	119,555
At 31 March 2023	76,563	18,887	24,105	119,555
Depreciation:				
At 31 March 2022	-	10,415	6,528	16,943
Charge for the year	-	2,340	6,026	8,366
At 31 March 2023	-	12,755	12,554	25,309
Net book value:				
At 31 March 2023	76,563	6,132	11,551	94,246
At 31 March 2022	76,563	8,472	17,577	102,612

The land was acquired in 2012 and has not been revalued. The land is owned jointly with Marlborough Town Council. It is not considered relevant or beneficial to revalue the land except to provide for any diminution of value.

#### 10 Investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Investments at valuation 1 April	70,434	68,254
Acquired at cost in year	5,486	5,965
Disposals at original cost in year	(4,287)	(5,202)
Revaluation gain/(loss) in year	(3,065)	1,417
Investments at valuation 31 March	68,568	70,434

All investments are quoted equities and debt instruments held at our stockbroker's nominee accounts.

#### 11 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts due within one year:		
Grants, invoices, subscriptions and donations	74,549	310,183
Prepayments and other debtors	51,451	2,993
	126,000	313,176

#### 12 Creditors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Salaries and social security costs	8,037	4,780
Trade creditors	73,497	5,750
Accruals and other creditors	23,148	23,148
	104,682	33,678

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 13 Analysis of funding

Restricted Income in year to 31 March 2023	Balance b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Environment Agency	54,198	99,552	(73,350)	-	80,400
Amazon Web Services	-	173,527	(118,873)	-	54,654
North Wessex Down AONB	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Defra, FIPL Fund, NWAONB	-	124,244	(119,879)	-	4,365
Natural England	944	4,277	(997)	-	4,224
Wiltshire Council, AONB, Lottery	31,650	-	(322)	-	31,328
Wiltshire Council and Patsy Wood Trust	5,822	-	(5,822)	-	-
Thames 21 Rivers Trust	-	2,000	(32)	-	1,968
Thames Water	34,199	27,740	(10,554)	-	51,385
Thames Water Environmental Reparation Fine	250,000	-	(65,221)	-	184,779
Thames Water DWMP Fund	-	9,000	(7,775)	-	1,225
Other organisations and individuals	(7,045)	42,756	(35,891)	7,045	6,865
Thames Rivers Trust - "Community Eel"	(2,422)	-	-	2,422	-
Co-op Community	3,331	-	(3,331)	-	-
Transfer from unrestricted funds to cover project losses	9,467	-	-	(9,467)	-
	<u>380,143</u>	<u>486,096</u>	<u>(442,047)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>424,193</u>

Restricted Income in year to 31 March 2022	Balance b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Environment Agency	101,951	60,286	(108,039)	-	54,198
Natural England	27	2,600	(1,683)	-	944
Defra - Green Recovery Fund	(499)	248,765	(216,616)	-	31,650
Wiltshire Council and Patsy Wood Trust	11,432	-	(5,610)	-	5,822
Thames Water	19,340	277,829	(12,970)	-	284,199
Thames Rivers Trust - "Community Eel"	38,271	3,148	(43,841)	-	(2,422)
Co-op Community	3,331	-	-	-	3,331
Other organisations	10,336	249	(17,630)	-	(7,045)
Transfer from unrestricted funds to cover project losses	-	-	-	9,467	9,467
	<u>184,189</u>	<u>592,877</u>	<u>(406,389)</u>	<u>9,467</u>	<u>380,143</u>

There were several restricted projects during the year with minor overruns. The charity transfers funds from unrestricted funds to cover these. The amount in 2022 was £9467. The loss making projects have all finished.

#### 14 Reserves

Of our total unrestricted funds of £297,589 (2022 - £270,417) we retain £100,000 (2022 - £100,000) as a reserve in cash, cash equivalents or readily realisable investments, which is approximately 9 months costs. It is intended that this would be used to wind the charity down should there no longer be a purpose which can or should be funded.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 5 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- state whether

Basis of independent

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Vivien Bayne-Jardine FCA

Independent Examiner

Date: 10 October 2023

**ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120725

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# Accounts

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**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

**Action for the River Kennet**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2022**

Name: Action for the River Kennet  
Also known as: ARK  
Charity number: 1120725

Address: Avebury  
Elcot Park  
Marlborough SN8 2BG

Director: Charlotte Hitchmough

Patron: Lord Kennet

Trustees: Richard Clarke Chairman  
Martin Gibson Treasurer  
Sean Dempster (resigned 11 October 2022)  
Judy Pitts (appointed 11 October 2022)  
David Hill (appointed 11 October 2022)

Officers: Technical advisor – John Lawson  
Ecological advisor – Peter Marren

Other Committee members: Kevin Light  
Rob Starr

River Habitat advisor: John Hounslow

Investment advisors: Charles Stanley  
55 Bishopsgate  
London EC2N 3AS

Bankers: CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 4JQ

**Structure and Governance**

The charity is constituted as a trust governed by a constitution. Trustees are elected annually by the members.

**Action for the River Kennet**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2022**

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of Action for the River Kennet ("ARK") are to conserve, protect, restore, and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the River Kennet and its tributaries including adjacent river catchments, estuarine and coastal areas.

Activities for the public benefit:

- ARK is committed to improving understanding of the Rivers in the Kennet and Pang catchments and increasing opportunities for people to enjoy them, whilst protecting the wildlife to which they are home. The Trustees have regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.
- ARK creates, manages and raises funding for river improvement projects.
- ARK organises and runs activities for schools to help students learn about the river environment and ecology.
- ARK organises visits to and walks along the River Kennet.
- ARK engages with schools, communities and policy makers to encourage the sustainable use of water.
- It provides and analyses data to demonstrate the condition of the ecology of the river and brings this to the attention of public and other bodies.
- ARK provides opportunities for people to carry out volunteer work in and by the river and trains citizen scientists to collect and record data.
- ARK meets regularly with members, stakeholders and environmental bodies to brief them on the river catchment and responds to consultations about fresh water and chalkstreams.
- ARK publishes regular newsletters informing its members about activities and river health.
- ARK is part of delivering Water Framework Directive goals, supports the catchment based approach and hosts the Kennet Catchment Partnership and co-hosts the South Chilterns Catchment Partnership.
- ARK works with and advises farmers, land managers and homeowners on ways to minimise their impact on rivers.

### **Response to Covid 19**

The trustees are carefully monitoring the impact of Covid 19 on all aspects of the charity and risks are being proactively managed. COVID has caused some staff absences either due to contracting the virus or being required to self isolate, and volunteering activities and school visits have been adapted or postponed in line with the latest government advice. Funding from Thames Water and support from HMRC for charities has helped to cover loss of income. Membership income is being closely monitored and has not reduced. The trustees anticipate that the charity will be able to maintain its target level of reserves.

The trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves throughout the year.

### **Achievements and Performance**

Action for the River Kennet ("ARK") has expanded in the last year, employing two new project officers and a part time project manager in addition to the existing team of 3 part time staff. We were successful in two bids to DEFRA's Green Recovery Challenge Fund which has funded the majority of these new posts until March 2022.

Unrestricted income, which can be used for general expenditure, was £75,711 (2021 - £94,926), with income from donations and memberships remaining steady at £53,989 (2021 - £56,588). We received £24,000 (2021 - £10,000) of donations from Trusts and Foundations for which we were very grateful. Total income rose to £671,037 (2021 - £313,285), bolstered by two significant grants from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund. We also received funding at the end of the year from Thames Water of £250,000 as a voluntary reparation resulting from a pollution incident. These funds are to be used to repair damage and improve river habitat around Thatcham. Total funds rose by £222,269 (2021 - rose by £147,227). Restricted funds carried forward increased from £184,188 to £380,143.

In the year we had an increase on general funds of £23,883 (2021 – £60,665). We had an operating surplus of £28,531 (2021 - £1,190) and our long term investments gained £4,819 in value (2021 – gain of £7,325) and were worth £70,434 (2021 - £68,254) at the financial year end.

We continue to campaign to ensure that the chalk stream habitat is protected from over-abstraction and pollution, and this year our staff have actively supported the Environment Agency and Thames Water in their investigations into the impacts of abstraction on the upper Kennet by collecting and sharing data with their consultants.

Having made good progress to reduce abstraction, leaving more water in the river to support wildlife in recent years, we have shifted our focus to improving water quality. We have done this by calling for a reduction in the volume of untreated raw sewage tipped into the river, working with Highways authorities to reduce road run off, and supporting further improvements in farming practices. We have highlighted data produced by the Environment Agency and presented by the Rivers Trust showing how much untreated sewage is poured into our rivers each year, and we are working with MPs to get regulations strengthened and enforced in order to protect rivers from pollution in future. To bolster evidence we have been collecting and reporting water quality data using a combination of our staff and volunteers.

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund grants have been game changing for ARK, enabling us take a catchment scale approach to improve more river reaches, create new wetlands, reduce flood risk, improve water quality and connect more people with nature than ever before. The funding has enabled us to employ and train new staff, providing a year's employment for two young people starting environmental careers. 'Sparkling Streams' tackles two of the more ecologically damaged rivers in the catchment where we can make the biggest positive difference, while the 'Thames Catchment Community Eels Project' focusses on eels, which are almost absent from the river nowadays, despite being prolific in the past. Our project officer has been training citizen scientists to map barriers to eel migration and leading school and community outreach to raise understanding and awareness of this threatened species. Both projects will leave a legacy that lays a foundation for future work.

During COVID our Wild River Reserve provided green-blue space, providing a place within easy walking distance of town for people to exercise and enjoy being in nature. We used the Reserve to run organised 'vole strolls' specifically aimed at people struggling with mental health, as well as offering volunteering opportunities for small groups as soon as it was safe to do so. For many people this was a stepping stone towards getting out and about again after the restrictions of lockdown. Despite COVID we worked with more than 1,500 school children, adapting educational material to digital platforms and running more outdoor events and activities to accommodate the changing restrictions.


We are advocates of the Catchment Based Approach and continue to host the Kennet Catchment Partnership and co-host the South Chilterns Catchment Partnership. Our 'Sparkling Streams' project is an embodiment of this approach, by partnering with North Wessex Downs AONB, the Southern Streams Farmer Group and Hungerford Town and Manor, we have built a project that includes elements throughout the Dun and Shalbourne sub-catchments, each of which will contribute to improved river health.

We are creating more SuDS (Sustainable urban Drainage Systems) projects, and now, as well as building rain gardens, we offer rain garden training courses through Rain Gardens UK.

We continue to invest in robust data management so that we can safely store and interrogate the Riverfly and other data that our volunteers collect every month.

ARK continues to be grateful to our diverse and interested membership. We continue to expand this, and are committed to improving the whole river and its tributaries from Avebury to the Thames.

I would like to thank my colleagues and the Executive Committee for their hard work, enthusiasm and support. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who have made ARK so effective. All of our members have contributed in a variety of ways and we and the animals, plants, fish and invertebrates of the Kennet owe them enormous gratitude.



Charlotte Hitchmough  
**Director**

## Action for the River Kennet

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 March 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds	Prior period Total funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations		53,989	20,000	73,989	56,588
Grants		16,875	572,877	589,752	253,444
Other trading activities		2,886	-	2,886	1,475
Investments	Note 3	1,961	-	1,961	1,778
<b>Total</b>	Note 2, 13	<b>75,711</b>	<b>592,877</b>	<b>668,588</b>	<b>313,285</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		7,655	-	7,655	5,353
Charitable activities		37,188	406,389	443,577	170,489
Governance		2,313	-	2,313	2,587
<b>Total</b>	Note 4	<b>47,156</b>	<b>406,389</b>	<b>453,545</b>	<b>178,429</b>
Net realised gains/(losses) on investments		(24)	-	(24)	847
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>28,531</b>	<b>186,488</b>	<b>215,019</b>	<b>135,703</b>
<b>Transfer</b>	Note 13	<b>(9,467)</b>	<b>9,467</b>	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments		4,819	-	4,819	11,524
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>23,883</b>	<b>195,955</b>	<b>219,838</b>	<b>147,227</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		246,535	184,188	430,723	283,496
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	Note 13	<b>270,418</b>	<b>380,143</b>	<b>650,561</b>	<b>430,723</b>

**Action for the River Kennet**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022**

		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	Note 9	102,612	105,147
Investments	Note 10	<u>70,434</u>	<u>68,254</u>
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>173,046</b>	<b>173,401</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	Note 11	313,176	151,021
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>198,017</u>	<u>135,868</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>511,193</b>	<b>286,889</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	Note 12	<u>(33,678)</u>	<u>(29,567)</u>
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		<b>477,515</b>	<b>257,322</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>650,561</b>	<b>430,723</b>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted funds	Note 14	270,418	246,535
Restricted funds	Note 13	<u>380,143</u>	<u>184,188</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>650,561</b>	<b>430,723</b>

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees



Richard Clarke



Martin Gibson

Date: 15 November 2022

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### (a) Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities SORP and the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102). The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

The company has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small entity.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The trustees have considered the financial position, forecasts and cash flows of the organisation and are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

##### (b) Depreciation

Equipment is depreciated at 10%-25% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives.

##### (c) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. Restricted fund are set out in note 13 to the financial statements.

##### (d) Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core financing or are of general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Such income is only restricted when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

(e) **Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with restoration and improvement of the River Kennet including research, education and vocational training and the dissemination of information.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

(f) **Grants awarded**

Grants are awarded to other conservation organisations, who have agreed a partnership in order to undertake direct, on the ground conservation projects, that achieve the objectives of ARK.

(g) **Pension costs**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the unrestricted fund as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

(h) **Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities at the year end are converted into sterling at the year end rate. Any loss or gain on foreign currency conversion is charged to overhead expenses as incurred.

(i) **Volunteers and donated services and facilities**

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from our suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

(j) **Taxation**

As a registered charity, the company is exempt from liability to corporation tax on its charitable activities.

(k) **Leasing arrangements**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the unrestricted reserves on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 2 Income from charitable activities

	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants received	16,875	572,877	589,752	35,085	218,359	253,444
Membership and donations	53,989	20,000	73,989	56,588	-	56,588
Sundry income	4,847	-	4,847	3,253	-	3,253
	<u>75,711</u>	<u>592,877</u>	<u>668,588</u>	<u>94,926</u>	<u>218,359</u>	<u>313,285</u>

Of the unrestricted income of £75,711 (2021 - £94,926), £16,875 (2021 - £20,075) was a grant from the Environment Agency (EA) to fund the charity's Catchment Management hosting role, £nil (2021 - £9,846) was claimed from HMRC under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, and £nil (2021 - £15,000) was a grant from Thames Water for Covid related support.

#### 3 Investment income

Of the investment income of £1,961 (2021 - £1,778), all of it arose from investments held with our Investment Advisor. £61 (2021 - £70) of income was interest received from bank deposits.

#### 4 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities and costs of generating funds

	Costs of generating funds	Charitable activities	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	7,563	135,353	13,130	2,313	158,359	77,698
Projects and activities	92	267,343	-	-	267,435	77,674
Administration costs	-	-	19,385	-	19,385	21,453
Depreciation	-	6,498	1,868	-	8,366	1,604
Reallocation of support costs	-	34,383	(34,383)	-	-	-
	<u>7,655</u>	<u>443,577</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,313</u>	<u>453,545</u>	<u>178,429</u>

#### 5 Analysis of governance and support costs

The charity initially identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Having identified its governance costs, the remaining support costs are allocated to the costs of the charitable activities. Allocations of costs, in particularly staff costs, are based on time records but the charity does not have a detailed time recording system as this would be too onerous, so estimates are made.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 6 Net expenditure for the year

Net expenditure for the year is stated after charging:

	2022 £	2021 £
Depreciation	8,366	1,604
Independent Accountants fees	400	300

#### 7 Staff costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Total remuneration:		
Salaries	141,289	71,484
Social security costs	8,156	2,135
Pension costs	8,914	4,079
	<u>158,359</u>	<u>77,698</u>

The average number of persons employed by the company was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Management	1	1
Project Officer	4	1
Administration	1	1

The emoluments of highest paid member of staff were in the range £30,000- £40,000 (2021 - £30,000 - £40,000 ): pension contributions of £3,189 (2021 - £3,017) were made for this person.

#### 8 Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No remuneration or expenses were paid to the trustees or committee during the year, except as detailed below.

No director or trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2021 – £nil), save as below.

Martin Gibson is a trustee of the GC Gibson Charitable Trust which has given an unrestricted donation of £5,000 (2021 - £7,000) to the charity.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 9 Tangible fixed assets

	Land £	Computer and plant equipment £	Vehicles	Total £
Cost:				
At 31 March 2021	76,563	13,056	24,105	113,724
Additions in the year	-	5,831	-	5,831
At 31 March 2022	76,563	18,887	24,105	119,555
Depreciation:				
At 31 March 2021	-	8,075	502	8,577
Charge for the year	-	2,340	6,026	8,366
At 31 March 2022	-	10,415	6,528	16,943
Net book value:				
At 31 March 2022	<u>76,563</u>	<u>8,472</u>	<u>17,577</u>	<u>102,612</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>76,563</u>	<u>4,981</u>	<u>23,603</u>	<u>105,147</u>

The land was acquired in 2012 and has not been revalued. The land is owned jointly with Marlborough Town Council. It is not considered relevant or beneficial to revalue the land except to provide for any diminution of value.

#### 10 Investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Investments at valuation 1 April	68,254	51,062
Acquired at cost in year	5,965	14,048
Disposals at original cost in year	(5,202)	(4,388)
Revaluation gain/(loss)	1,417	7,532
Investments at valuation 31 March	<u>70,434</u>	<u>68,254</u>

All investments are quoted equities and debt instruments held at our stockbroker's nominee accounts.

#### 11 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts due within one year:		
Grants, invoices, subscriptions and donations	310,183	80,109
Prepayments and other debtors	2,993	70,912
	<u>313,176</u>	<u>151,021</u>

#### 12 Creditors

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Salaries and social security costs	4,780	6,868
Trade creditors	5,750	-
Accruals and other creditors	23,148	22,699
	<u>33,678</u>	<u>29,567</u>

## Action for the River Kennet

## Notes to the Accounts

### 13 Analysis of funding

Restricted Income in year to 31 March 2022	Balance b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Environment Agency	101,951	60,286	(108,039)	-	54,198
Natural England	27	2,600	(1,683)	-	944
Defra - Green Recovery Fund	(499)	248,765	(216,616)	-	31,650
Wiltshire Council and Patsy Wood Trust	11,432	-	(5,610)	-	5,822
Thames Water	19,340	277,829	(12,970)	-	284,199
Thames Rivers Trust - "Community Eel"	38,271	3,148	(43,841)	-	(2,422)
Co-op Community	3,331	-	-	-	3,331
Other organisations	10,336	249	(17,630)	-	(7,045)
Transfer from unrestricted funds to cover project losses	-	-	-	9,467	9,467
	<u>184,189</u>	<u>592,877</u>	<u>(406,389)</u>	<u>9,467</u>	<u>380,143</u>

There were several restricted projects during the year with minor overruns. The charity transfers funds from unrestricted funds to cover these. The amount in 2022 was £9467. The loss making projects have all finished.

Restricted Income in year to 31 March 2021	Balance b/f £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance c/f £
Environment Agency	62,902	114,353	(75,304)	101,951
Natural England	-	4,225	(4,198)	27
Defra - Green Recovery Challenge Fund - "Sparkling Streams"	-	31,669	(32,168)	(499)
Wiltshire Council and Patsy Wood Trust	11,829	-	(397)	11,432
Thames Water	-	19,340	-	19,340
Thames Rivers Trust - "Community Eel"	-	44,566	(6,295)	38,271
Salisbury Diocesan Schools	1,982	-	(1,982)	-
Co-op Community	6,018	-	(2,687)	3,331
Other organisations	14,896	4,206	(8,766)	10,336
	<u>97,627</u>	<u>218,359</u>	<u>(131,797)</u>	<u>184,189</u>

### 14 Reserves

Of our total unrestricted funds of £270,417 (2021 - £246,534) we retain £100,000 (2021 - £80,000) as a reserve in cash or cash equivalents, which is approximately 9 months costs. It is intended that this would be used to wind the charity down should there no longer be a purpose which can or should be funded.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 5 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- state whether

Basis of independent

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Vivien Bayne-Jardine FCA

Independent Examiner

Date: 15 November 2022

**ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120725

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# Accounts

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**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

**Action for the River Kennet**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2021**

Name: Action for the River Kennet  
Also known as: ARK  
Charity number: 1120725

Address: Avebury  
Elcot Park  
Marlborough SN8 2BG

Director: Charlotte Hitchmough

Patron: Lord Kennet

Trustees: Richard Clarke Chairman  
Martin Gibson Treasurer  
Sean Dempster (resigned 11 October 2021)  
Judy Pitts (appointed 11 October 2021)  
David Hill (appointed 11 October 2021)

Officers: Technical advisor – John Lawson  
Ecological advisor – Peter Marren

Other Committee members: Kevin Light  
Rob Starr

River Habitat advisor: John Hounslow

Investment advisors: Charles Stanley  
55 Bishopsgate  
London EC2N 3AS

Bankers: CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 4JQ

**Structure and Governance**

The charity is constituted as a trust governed by a constitution. Trustees are elected annually by the members.

**Action for the River Kennet**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2021**

**Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of Action for the River Kennet ("ARK") are to conserve, protect, restore, and improve the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments of the catchments comprising the River Kennet and its tributaries including adjacent river catchments, estuarine and coastal areas.

Activities for the public benefit:

- ARK is committed to improving understanding of the River Kennet and increasing opportunities for people to enjoy it, whilst protecting the wildlife to which it is home. The Trustees have regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.
- ARK creates, manages and raises funding for habitat restoration projects.
- ARK produces projects in schools to show students the river environment and ecology.
- ARK organises visits to and walks along the River Kennet.
- ARK engages with schools and communities to encourage the sustainable use of water.
- It provides and analyses data to demonstrate the condition of the ecology of the river and brings this to the attention of public and other bodies.
- ARK provides opportunities for people to carry out volunteer work in and by the river and trains citizen scientists to collect and record data.
- ARK meets regularly with members, stakeholders and environmental bodies to brief them on the river catchment and responds to consultations about fresh water and chalkstreams.
- ARK publishes regular newsletters informing its members about activities and river health.
- ARK is part of delivering Water Framework Directive goals, supports the catchment based approach and hosts the Kennet Catchment Partnership.
- ARK works with and advises farmers, land managers and homeowners on ways to minimise their impact on rivers.

**Response to Covid 19**

The trustees are carefully monitoring the impact of Covid 19 on all aspects of the charity and risks are being proactively managed. COVID has caused some staff absences either due to contracting the virus or being required to self isolate, and volunteering activities and school visits have been adapted or postponed in line with the latest government advice. Funding from Thames Water and support from HMRC for charities has helped to cover loss of income. Membership income is being closely monitored and has not reduced. The trustees anticipate that the charity will be able to maintain its target level of reserves.

The trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves throughout the year.

**Achievements and Performance**

Action for the River Kennet ("ARK") has expanded in the last year, employing two new project officers and a part time project manager in addition to the existing team of 3 part time staff. We were successful in two bids to DEFRA's Green Recovery Challenge Fund which has funded the majority of these new posts until March 2022.

Unrestricted income, which can be used for general expenditure, rose to £94,926 (2020 - £64,646), with income from donations and memberships increasing to £56,588 (2020 - £43,441). We received £24,000 (2020 - £10,000) of donations from Trusts and Foundations for which we were very grateful. Total income rose to £313,285 (2020 - £128,683), bolstered by two significant grants from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund. Total funds rose by £147,227 (2020 - fell by £31,901). Restricted funds carried forward increased from £97,627 to £184,189.

In the year we had an increase on general funds of £60,665 (2020 – deficit of £7,104). We had an operating surplus of £49,141 (2020 - £1,190) and our long term investments recovered last year's losses with a gain of £11,524 (2020 – loss of £8,294) and were worth £68,254 (2020 - £51,062) at the financial year end.

We continue to campaign to ensure that the chalk stream habitat is protected from over-abstraction and pollution, and this year our staff have actively supported the Environment Agency and Thames Water in their investigations into the impacts of abstraction on the upper Kennet by collecting and sharing data with their consultants.

Having made good progress to reduce abstraction, leaving more water in the river to support wildlife in recent years, we have shifted our focus to improving water quality. We have done this by calling for a reduction in the volume of untreated raw sewage tipped into the river, working with Highways authorities to reduce road run off, and supporting further improvements in farming practices. We have highlighted data produced by the Environment Agency and presented by the Rivers Trust showing how much untreated sewage is poured into our rivers each year, and we are working with MPs to get regulations strengthened and enforced in order to protect rivers from pollution in future. To bolster evidence we have been collecting and reporting water quality data using a combination of our staff and volunteers.

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund grants have been game changing for ARK, enabling us to improve more river reaches, create new wetlands, reduce flood risk, improve water quality and connect more people with nature than ever before. The funding has enabled us to employ and train new staff, providing a year's employment for two young people starting environmental careers. 'Sparkling Streams' tackles two of the more ecologically damaged rivers in the catchment where we can make the biggest positive difference, while the 'Thames Catchment Community Eels Project' focusses on eels, which are almost absent from the river nowadays, despite being prolific in the past. Our project officer has been training citizen scientists to map barriers to eel migration and leading school and community outreach to raise understanding and awareness of this threatened species. Both projects will leave a legacy that lays a foundation for future work.

During COVID our Wild River Reserve provided green-blue space, which was particularly valuable during lockdown, providing a place within easy walking distance of town for people to exercise and enjoy being in nature. We used the Reserve to run organised 'vole strolls' specifically aimed at people struggling with mental health, as well as offering volunteering opportunities for small groups as soon as it was safe to do so. For many people this was a stepping stone towards getting out and about again after the restrictions of lockdown. Despite COVID we worked with more than 1,000 school children, adapting educational material to digital platforms and running more outdoor events and activities to accommodate the changing restrictions.

We are advocates of the Catchment Based Approach and continue to host the Kennet Catchment Partnership and co-host the South Chilterns Catchment Partnership. Our 'Sparkling Streams' project is an embodiment of this approach, by partnering with North Wessex Downs AONB, the Southern Streams Farmer Group and Hungerford Town and Manor, we have built a project that includes elements throughout the Dun and Shalbourne sub-catchments, each of which will contribute to improved river health.

We are creating more SuDS (Sustainable urban Drainage Systems) projects, and now, as well as building rain gardens, we offer rain garden training courses through Rain Gardens UK.

We continue to invest in robust data management so that we can safely store and interrogate the Riverfly and other data that our volunteers collect every month.

ARK continues to be grateful to our diverse and interested membership. We continue to expand this, and are committed to improving the whole river and its tributaries from Avebury to the Thames.

I would like to thank my colleagues and the Executive Committee for their hard work, enthusiasm and support. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who have made ARK so effective. Many of our members have contributed in a variety of ways and we and the animals, plants, fish and invertebrates of the Kennet owe them enormous gratitude.



Charlotte Hitchmough  
**Director**

## Action for the River Kennet

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 March 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds	Prior period Total funds
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations		56,588	-	56,588	43,441
Grants		35,085	218,359	253,444	82,882
Other trading activities		1,475	-	1,475	260
Investments	Note 3	1,778	-	1,778	2,100
<b>Total</b>	Note 2, 13	<b>94,926</b>	<b>218,359</b>	<b>313,285</b>	<b>128,683</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		5,353	-	5,353	3,769
Charitable activities		38,692	131,797	170,489	145,266
Governance		2,587	-	2,587	2,796
<b>Total</b>	Note 4	<b>46,632</b>	<b>131,797</b>	<b>178,429</b>	<b>151,831</b>
Net realised gains/(losses) on investments		847	-	847	(459)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>49,141</b>	<b>86,562</b>	<b>135,703</b>	<b>(23,607)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments		11,524	-	11,524	(8,294)
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>60,665</b>	<b>86,562</b>	<b>147,227</b>	<b>(31,901)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		185,869	97,627	283,496	315,397
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	Note 13	<b>246,534</b>	<b>184,189</b>	<b>430,723</b>	<b>283,496</b>

**Action for the River Kennet**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021**

		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	Note 9	105,147	80,249
Investments	Note 10	<u>68,254</u>	<u>51,062</u>
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>173,401</b>	<b>131,311</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	Note 11	151,021	10,757
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>135,868</u>	<u>151,233</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>286,889</b>	<b>161,990</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	Note 12	<u>(29,567)</u>	<u>(9,805)</u>
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		<b><u>257,322</u></b>	<b><u>152,185</u></b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b><u>430,723</u></b>	<b><u>283,496</u></b>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted funds		246,534	185,869
Restricted funds	Note 13	<u>184,189</u>	<u>97,627</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<b><u>430,723</u></b>	<b><u>283,496</u></b>

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees



Richard Clarke



Martin Gibson

Date: 18 January 2022

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### (a) Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities SORP and the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102). The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

The company has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small entity.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The trustees have considered the financial position, forecasts and cash flows of the organisation and are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

##### (b) Depreciation

Equipment is depreciated at 10%-25% per annum on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives.

##### (c) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. Restricted fund are set out in note 13 to the financial statements.

##### (d) Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core financing or are of general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Such income is only restricted when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

(e) **Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred.

- Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with restoration and improvement of the River Kennet including research, education and vocational training and the dissemination of information.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

(f) **Grants awarded**

Grants are awarded to other conservation organisations, who have agreed a partnership in order to undertake direct, on the ground conservation projects, that achieve the objectives of ARK.

(g) **Pension costs**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the unrestricted fund as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

(h) **Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities at the year end are converted into sterling at the year end rate. Any loss or gain on foreign currency conversion is charged to overhead expenses as incurred.

(i) **Volunteers and donated services and facilities**

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from our suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

(j) **Taxation**

As a registered charity, the company is exempt from liability to corporation tax on its charitable activities.

(k) **Leasing arrangements**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the unrestricted reserves on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 2 Income from charitable activities

	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants received	35,085	218,359	253,444	18,845	64,037	82,882
Membership and donations	56,588	-	56,588	43,441	-	43,441
Sundry income	3,253	-	3,253	2,360	-	2,360
	<u>94,926</u>	<u>218,359</u>	<u>313,285</u>	<u>64,646</u>	<u>64,037</u>	<u>128,683</u>

Of the unrestricted income of £94,926 (2020 - £64,646), £20,075 (2020 - £16,890) was a grant from the Environment Agency (EA) to fund the charity's Catchment Management hosting role, £9846 (2020 - £nil) was claimed from HMRC under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, and £15,000 (2020 - £nil) was a grant from Thames Water for Covid related support.

#### 3 Investment income

Of the investment income of £1,778 (2020 - £2,100), all of it arose from investments held with our Investment Advisor. £70 (2020 - £309) of income was interest received from bank deposits.

#### 4 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities and costs of generating funds

	Costs of generating funds	Charitable activities	Support costs	Governance costs	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	3,537	49,396	22,642	2,123	77,698	76,404
Projects and activities	1,619	76,055	-	-	77,674	55,692
Administration costs	197	9,860	10,932	464	21,453	18,748
Depreciation	-	1,478	126	-	1,604	987
Reallocation of support costs	-	33,700	(33,700)	-	-	-
	<u>5,353</u>	<u>170,489</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,587</u>	<u>178,429</u>	<u>151,831</u>

#### 5 Analysis of governance and support costs

The charity initially identifies the costs of its support functions. It then identifies those costs which relate to the governance function. Having identified its governance costs, the remaining support costs are allocated to the costs of the charitable activities. Allocations of costs, in particularly staff costs, are based on time records but the charity does not have a detailed time recording system as this would be too onerous, so estimates are made.

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 6 Net expenditure for the year

Net expenditure for the year is stated after charging:

	2021 £	2020 £
Depreciation	1,604	987
Independent Accountants fees	300	300

#### 7 Staff costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Total remuneration:		
Salaries	71,484	70,176
Social security costs	2,135	2,716
Pension costs	4,079	3,512
	<u>77,698</u>	<u>76,404</u>

The average number of persons employed by the company was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Management	1	1
Project Officer	1	1
Administration	1	1

The emoluments of highest paid member of staff were in the range £30,000- £40,000 (2020 - £30,000 - £40,000 ): pension contributions of £3,017 (2020 - £2,537) were made for this person.

#### 8 Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No remuneration or expenses were paid to the trustees or committee during the year, except as detailed below.

No director or trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2020 – £nil), save as below.

Martin Gibson is a director of MJS Farm Contracting Limited which provided services to the charity totalling £nil (2020 - £1,683). MJS have been a regular sub contractor on river restoration projects and also look after the land and grazing owned by the charity. All costs are agreed on an arms length basis and are subjected to competitive quotations and approved before payment. Costs are reviewed and approved by the other trustees on a regular basis.

Martin Gibson is a trustee of the GC Gibson Charitable Trust which has given an unrestricted donation of £7,000 (2020 - £5,000 to the charity).

Sean Dempster received reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the Charity of £nil (2020 - £344)

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 9 Tangible fixed assets

	Land £	Computer and plant equipment £	Vehicles	Total £
Cost:				
At 31 March 2020	76,563	10,659	-	87,222
Additions in the year	-	2,397	24,105	26,502
At 31 March 2021	76,563	13,056	24,105	113,724
Depreciation:				
At 31 March 2020	-	6,973	-	6,973
Charge for the year	-	1,102	502	1,604
At 31 March 2021	-	8,075	502	8,577
Net book value:				
At 31 March 2021	76,563	4,981	23,603	105,147
At 31 March 2020	76,563	3,686	-	80,249

The land was acquired in 2012 and has not been revalued. The land is owned jointly with Marlborough Town Council. It is not considered relevant or beneficial to revalue the land except to provide for any diminution of value.

#### 10 Investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Investments at 1 April	51,062	59,814
Acquired at cost in year	14,048	-
Disposals at original cost in year	(4,388)	(4,767)
Revaluation gain/(loss)	7,532	(3,985)
Investments at 31 March	68,254	51,062

All investments are quoted equities and debt instruments held at our stockbroker's nominee accounts.

#### 11 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts due within one year:		
Grants, invoices, subscriptions and donations	80,109	9,870
Prepayments and other debtors	70,912	887
	151,021	10,757

The £292,965 other debtor represents the committed but unpaid part of the two Green Recovery Challenge fund grants awarded in March 2021. It is expected that these amounts will be mostly received in the next 12 months as the projects are completed.

#### 12 Creditors

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Salaries and social security costs	6,868	1,292
Accruals and other creditors	22,699	8,513
	29,567	9,805

## Action for the River Kennet

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 13 Analysis of funding

Restricted Income in year to 31 March 2021

	Balance b/f	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£
Environment Agency	62,902	114,353	(75,304)	101,951
Natural England	-	4,225	(4,198)	27
Defra - Green Recovery Challenge Fund - "Sparkling Streams"	-	31,669	(32,168)	(499)
Wiltshire Council, and Patsy Wood Grant	11,829	-	(397)	11,432
Thames Water	-	19,340	-	19,340
Thames River Restoration Trust - "Community Eel"	-	44,566	(6,295)	38,271
Salisbury Diocesan Schools	1,982	-	(1,982)	0
Co-op Community	6,018	-	(2,687)	3,331
Other organisations	14,896	4,206	(8,766)	10,336
	<u>97,627</u>	<u>218,359</u>	<u>(131,797)</u>	<u>184,189</u>

Restricted Income in year to 31 March 2020

	Balance b/f	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£
Environment Agency/Natural England	82,188	17,070	(36,354)	62,904
Wiltshire Council, Patsy Wood Grant, and Co-Op	15,817	8,023	(5,995)	17,845
Salisbury Diocesan Schools	-	10,500	(8,518)	1,982
Other organisations	24,419	2,452	(11,975)	14,896
	<u>122,424</u>	<u>38,045</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,842</u>
				<u>97,627</u>

#### 14 Reserves

Of our total unrestricted funds of £246,534 (2020 - £185,869) we retain £80,000 (2020 - £50,000) as a reserve in cash or cash equivalents, which is approximately 9 months costs. It is intended that this would be used to wind the charity down should there no longer be a purpose which can or should be funded.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
ACTION FOR THE RIVER KENNET**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 5 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
- state whether

Basis of independent

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Vivien Bayne-Jardine FCA

Independent Examiner

Date: 18 January 2022