

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

England & Wales · Charity number 1123432

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [06472186](#)

Registered 2008-04-03

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

Contact

Address Office 11
34 St. Nicholas Street
Bristol
BS1 1TG

Phone 0117 325 2891

Email info@bnhc.org.uk

Website www.bnhc.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF WILDLIFE AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND THEIR CONSERVATION.

Activities: A range of public, professional development and educational events on best practice in environmental communication

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE NATIONAL
- Bristol City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£450,871	£424,051	-	-
2023-12-31	£457,747	£470,603	-	-
2022-12-31	£342,676	£342,629	-	-
2021-12-31	£213,425	£220,933	-	-
2020-12-31	£221,207	£173,104	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Justin Collard Morris		2020-06-12
Julie Doherty		2024-11-05
Leah Anne McNally		2025-05-19
MARTIN BRASHER		2013-09-16
Peter Edwin Ball		2020-06-11

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1123432

Accounts

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

(A company limited by guarantee)

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024**

**Company registration number: 06472186
Registered charity number: 1123432**

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>Page</u>
Highlight report	2
Trustees notes	13
Independent Examiner's report	15
Statement of financial activities	16
Balance sheet	19



Annual Report 2024

The Natural History Consortium

Dear Partners and collaborators,

Our 2024 Annual Summary has been prepared for staff, volunteers, and stakeholders at our Consortium partner organisations as well as our external supporters, partners and funders. Please do share it with colleagues, and send us your feedback and ideas for future collaboration!

Throughout 2024, our partners have come together to create, curate and convene across all three of our strategic objectives. Together, we worked at a local, regional and national level and further shared our learning through international networks. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of our Communicate conference, which gave us numerous opportunities to reflect on how the collaboration between partners has strengthened, and how our joint activities have evolved alongside the environmental communication sector.

We continue to reflect on how we can increase our impact, and we welcome your support and challenge in this collective endeavour. More information about each of our programmes is available on our website at www.bnhc.org.uk, or we would be happy to speak to you about areas of interest.

Our Mission:

Engaging everyone with the natural world through Collaborative Action



The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Partnership in Action

- Our **Steering Group** is our main strategic and decision-making body, where our Consortium partners meet regularly throughout the year. The group is supported by our charity's small Trustee Board and direct the staff's efforts by consensus.
- Our **Communicate committee** sets the editorial for our national conference and other sector-facing work.
- Our events, ad-hoc committees and working groups bring partners together around specialist topics and at events.

Leveraging Partner Contributions

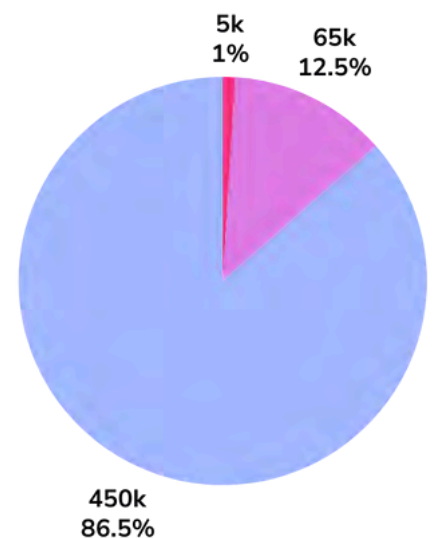
- NHC partners have made the same annual contribution for 21 years since the partnership was formed. Each year we leverage each organisation's financial contribution and commitment into through fundraising into increased resources for joint programmes.

£5,000 – your organisation's contribution in 2024 (1%)

£65,000 – other partner's contributions in 2024 (12.5%)

£450,000 – funds leveraged and raised for collaborative programmes (86.5%)

= **£520,000** – charity turnover for the year, supporting joint work between our partners.



Staff

- Our experienced team supports our partners and delivers joint events under their direction.



From left to right:

Savita Willmott (CEO), **Ellie Turner-Wallace** (Head of Programmes), **Stuart Payton** (Senior Programmes Manager until July 2024), **Izzy Pulletz** (Marketing and Communications Manager until November 2024), **Loz Emerson** (Programmes Manager), **Molly Zeidler** (Communicate Conference Producer until December 2024).

Objective 1 - To deliver entertaining and informative events and activities that inspire greater public interest, volunteering and action for nature.

NHC's work on our first objective focuses on direct delivery and public engagement in the West of England, as well as supporting national projects and replicating our learning internationally. Our partners' focus is to develop new methods and mechanisms for reaching the broadest possible audiences, underpinned by our own evaluation framework "Actions for Nature".



Festival of Nature

Festival of Nature is the only public festival to span the West of England region, and the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world.

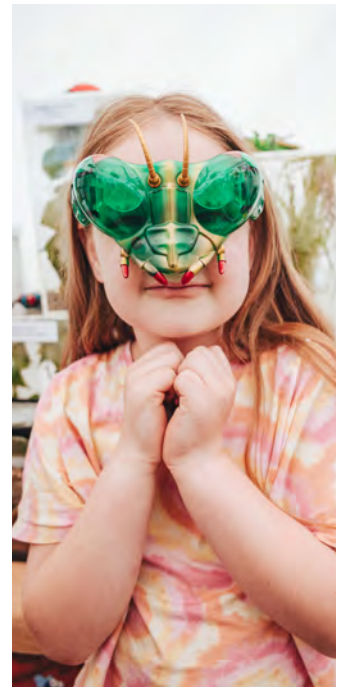
Our Festival of Nature in 2024 featured all 14 of our Consortium members and welcomed over 30,000 visitors to 96 different events.



Milsom Street Takeover

Festival of Nature activity in Bath included a takeover of Milsom Street, closing a busy city centre street in the centre of the city, attracting **over 11,000 visitors in 6 hours**.

Evaluation demonstrated the most popular activities were hands-on activities, alongside a solar powered cinema and nature themed performers.



Community Day

NHC members Avon Wildlife Trust led the Festival's first Community Day, supporting local groups to run their own events as part of the major event.

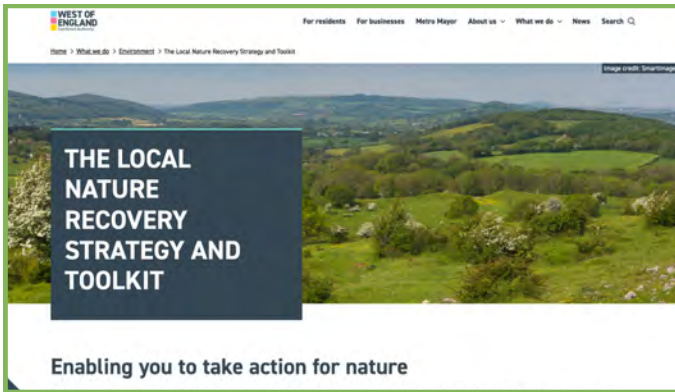
37 events took place across the West of England, reaching **over 2000 members of the public**. Events were added to two illustrated maps of the Bristol and Bath region which were freely distributed.



Local Nature Recovery Strategy

In 2024, partners from across the West of England region worked together on a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), led by the West of England Combined Authority. **NHC was commissioned to support community input.**

We ran a “Call for Evidence” from local community groups, gathering together previous material from nature engagement activities, and supported analysis from the statutory public consultation.



Objective 2 - To facilitate, develop, and disseminate novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience.

Our work on objective 2 focuses on innovation, piloting new approaches, evaluation and dissemination. The focus is on adaptation and learning – with some activities working closely with a few participants and other attracting thousands.

City Nature Challenge

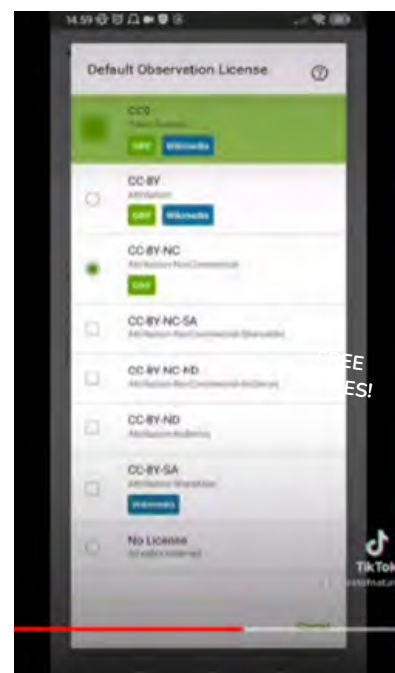
City Nature Challenge is an annual international wildlife recording taking place over 4 days. Over 400 cities take part and NHC inspires audiences across the West of England to take part.

In April 2024, NHC focused on creating new materials that supported better data collection, pathways and quality. After consultation with national and regional data organisations, we created three videos on license settings, observation location and taking better photos. The videos had thousands of views and engagements and were shared by partners.



License setting changes during City Nature Challenge resulted in **at least 37,749 records becoming more accessible and useable** to many data-users outside of iNaturalist, with data more likely to be used by scientists, conservationists, and ecologists.

The National Biodiversity Network noted that **1.5% of all iNaturalist UK's records changed to open licence** during the weeks we were promoting our videos for City Nature



Emergency Tree Fund Pilots

NHC was commissioned as part of the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund to explore new approaches to **engagement, volunteering, and formal education** to help successfully deliver the West of England Tree and Woodland Strategy (Forest of Avon plan). In 2024 we launched our final toolkit, exploring opportunities for new approaches within formal education settings.



Disabled Adults Pilot projects

As part of Festival of Nature, we worked with Emma Geen, a local Disabled artist, to test a number of new formats and activities for Disabled adults. These included a Walk and Roll event at WWT Slimbridge, online talks and collaborative craft activities, bringing BSL interpreters to our main festival events, and creating a Disabled Adult's social at Festival of Nature's Wild Weekend.

359 Disabled adults from across the West of England took part.

Youth Panel

NHC partners set up a new Youth Panel for Festival of Nature in 2024, noting that only 16% of our Festival visitors were aged 12-24 years old. **We recruited and supported a youth panel to create original events for the Festival** – including a community 'campfire' event themed around eco-anxiety, and a youth art competition.



Objective 3 - To build, support and pilot effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and to help organisations learn from each other.

Our work on this objective is both regional and national – bringing together professionals and organisations together in curated events, discussions, and co-delivery.

Communicate

Communicate is a flagship event for our partnership: a national conference for environmental communication professionals, running since 2004.

In 2024, we celebrated our **20th anniversary** with 45 sessions at events in Manchester, London, Bristol and online, on the theme of “New Connections for Nature”.
1,326 professionals joined the event from **346 different organisations**.



Citizen Science Local Pilot

Our Citizen Science Local Pilot programme, funded by Natural England, focuses on convening and coordinating citizen science across the Wessex area. The programme has supported **115 professionals** in Wessex from **70 different organisations**. Activities have included a major citizen science conference in June 2024 (70 attendees), and a series of Knowledge Exchange events.



Making Connections

In January 2024 we brought academic and non-academic staff together from across our partnership to explore collaboration and connections. 24 researchers, attending from our HEI institutions, held facilitated discussions on **future academic research, impact case studies, joint funding bids and academic / student placement projects**.

Nature and Business

A new series of roundtable events during Festival of Nature brought a wide range of businesses together around two focus themes: **Nature and the Creative Industries**, and **Biodiversity Net Gain and Skills**. NHC staff also supported training for regional business staff on nature communication and biodiversity. We aim to grow this programme across Festival of Nature in 2025.



Growing Shoots

We are supporting NHC partners to explore a shared definition of **“Engaged Environmental Research”** and opportunities for collaborative research through an internal scoping and horizon scanning process.



The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action.



Avon Wildlife Trust

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives



BRISTOL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs



Forestry England



UNIVERSITY OF BATH



University of BRISTOL



University of the West of England



For wetlands. For life.



WOODLAND TRUST

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Reference and administrative details

Company number:	06472186
Charity number:	1123432
Registered office:	Jubilee House Bristol BS1 4RW
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiners:	Linden Accountants

Key management personnel

Trustees:	Justin Morris – Bristol Zoo Ian Barrett – Avon Wildlife Trust Peter Ball – Independent Trustee Martin Brasher – Independent Trustee
Principal Staff:	Savita Willmott (Chief Executive)
Company Secretary:	Savita Willmott

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14th January 2008 and registered as a charity on 3 April 2008.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The Consortium has 14 partners, which work together in the following way:

Members:

Bristol Zoo Gardens and Avon Wildlife Trust are members of the organisation. In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, each member has the right to appoint one representative to the Board of Trustees. The members also each have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Associate members (Consortium members):

Bath & North East Somerset Council, BBC, Bristol City Council, Forestry England, Natural England, University of Bristol, University of the West of England, University of Bath, National Trust, Wildfowl Wetlands Trust, and The Woodland Trust are associate members (Consortium members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Associate members (Supporter members):

Defra are associate members (Supporter members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to send one representative to steering group meetings.

Organisational structure

The Consortium undertakes a range of activities that are managed in the following way:

Trustees – The Trustees undertake financial responsibility for the organisation in accordance with charity law. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis.

The Trustees are recruited and appointed from each of the Consortium’s legal members, one from each, as well as independent Trustees as co-opted by The Board. Members of the board operate a “rolling chair” to lead each meeting.

Steering Group – The Steering Group undertake responsibility for all strategic planning and development for the organisation. The Steering Group meets every two months.

Risk Management

The steering group and the Trustees have considered the key risks facing the Consortium and have taken steps to mitigate them.

Trustees’ responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Company law requires the Trustee Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustee Board should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee Board is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

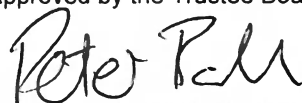
The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity’s website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Members of the Trustee Board, who are directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 14.

In accordance with company law, as the charity’s Trustees, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity’s Independent Examiner is unaware; and
- As the Trustees of the charity we have taken all steps that ought to have been taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity’s Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustee Board on and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Peter Ball (On behalf of Trustees)


.....
Date

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bristol Natural History Consortium for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibility and basis of report

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

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

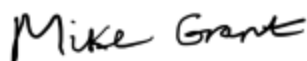
Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:



Name: Michael Grant ACPA

Address: Linden Accountants Limited, Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9LB

Date: 19/08/25

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2024 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum & Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). The company has taken advantage of the exemption to not have to prepare a strategic report in accordance with "The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013".

The charity's legal name remains Bristol Natural History Consortium, however the operating and public name for the partnership is The Natural History Consortium (NHC)

1. OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The mission statement and objectives are regularly reviewed on an annual basis by Consortium members.

1.1 Our mission statement:

The Natural History Consortium - Engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action

1.2 Our objectives:

The company's charitable objects are to advance the public understanding of wildlife and the natural environment and their conservation.

It achieves this by:

- Delivering entertaining and informative events and activities that inspire greater public interest, volunteering and action for nature
- Facilitating, developing, and disseminating novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience
- Building, supporting and piloting effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and help organisations learn from each other

1.3 Ensuring our work delivers our objectives

The Consortium's Trustees and Steering Group review progress of the partnership and activities through regular Trustees' meetings and bi-monthly Steering Group meetings.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how our activities will contribute to and deliver our mission statement.

1.4 Our activities

We carry out these objectives through a range of activities, guided by our mission statement:

- Festival of Nature – an annual public festival and associated public facing activities
- Communicate – an annual conference and an online community supported by research and resources.
- Citizen Science – a range of public activity and community of practice supporting public participation in biological recording
- Volunteers programme – supporting skills development and volunteer activity through our programmes
- Research and development – a strand of piloting, evaluation and learning activity using
- Governance and management.

1.5 How our activities deliver public benefit

The relationship of our activities to the target beneficiaries are described below. All of our charitable activities focus on environmental communication.

ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS	IMPACT
<p>FESTIVAL OF NATURE Bringing together content from across the partnership under a common framework for engagement, Festival of Nature is the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world delivering an exciting new programme across the West of England each year since 2003.</p>	<p>A cohesive, inspiring, engaging, ambitious programme of activity that delivers against seven strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner interest - Fundability - User experience - Impact (action for nature) - Inclusivity - Covid regulations - Innovation & shared learning 	<p>Audiences in the West of England are more aware of environmental issues, more connected with nature and empowered to take new, sustained, positive action for nature.</p>
<p>COMMUNICATE Started in 2004, Communicate is an annual environmental communication conference bringing together a diverse group of delegates each year to develop their skills, share best practice and debate latest issues in science communication, nature conservation and engaging people with the natural world.</p>	<p>Convening the UK environmental communications sector through an annual programme of innovative and engaging conference, workshops and conversations</p>	<p>Environmental communicators are better equipped with tools, knowledge and connections to influence positive change for nature</p>
<p>CITIZEN SCIENCE Since 2009 NHC has shown leadership in the development of BioBlitz as a format for public engagement in biological recording and citizen science, representing the West of England in the international City Nature Challenge since 2018. NHC represents Bristol & Bath City Region and spearheads UK participation in this global race for citizens to generate the most wildlife records data possible in 4 days.</p>	<p>A regional programme of activity promoting public participation in biological recording, piloting new innovative formats for participatory community science</p> <p>Convening and supporting national and international communities of practice around citizen science and associated formats to share learning, and foster collaboration</p> <p>Biological records data contributed at scale to local, national and international datasets</p>	<p>Participants feel better connected and more knowledgeable about nature on their doorsteps, and are empowered to take new, sustained, positive action for nature through community science.</p> <p>The biological recording and community science sector are better equipped with tools, knowledge and connections to support public participation in biological recording and community science</p> <p>Conservation and land management practice and research are better informed by biological records data.</p>
<p>VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME NHC runs an on-going, active volunteer programme designed to train and support students, those looking to develop skills, and those looking to make a change of career.</p>	<p>Cohorts of volunteers are trained and supported to take leadership roles in NHC public facing activities. Specific strands of volunteer training, advocacy and skills development are built into NHC programmes</p>	<p>Volunteers are upskilled and build experience in environmental communications and engagement practice</p> <p>Young volunteers and wildlife enthusiasts benefit from peer-to-peer learning and social cohesion</p>
<p>RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT Through our regular senior stakeholder meetings and frequent informal contact, we have a space for sharing learning and challenges. Building on core programmes, we explore new ways to facilitate collaboration between Consortium members as well as external partners, to make things happen together.</p>	<p>A collaborative portfolio of funded projects that support our charitable objectives, provide opportunities to support delivery of partners individual priorities, build capacity and facilitate collaboration between partners</p>	<p>NHC reputation as a leading collaboration space and safe pair of hands for delivering against partner priorities</p> <p>New collaborations, and innovations are fostered and disseminated through the Consortium charitable structure and activities – contributing to research and best practice in environmental communications</p> <p>Building core capacity through funded activity, and consultancy.</p>
<p>GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>Financial, administrative, team management and policy responsibilities</p> <p>Regular meetings of the Trustees and Steering Group</p>	<p>Ensuring financial stability, compliance and best practice in charitable governance</p> <p>Ensuring effective and efficient investment of resources to meet charitable objectives</p>

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	Note	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u> £	Restricted <u>Funds</u> £	Total Funds <u>2024</u> £	Total Funds <u>2023</u> £
INCOME FROM					
Donations	3	70,000	13,545	83,545	87,714
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	4	42,489	34,708	77,197	53,416
Communicate Conference	4	40,107	-	40,107	30,645
Education and Engagement	4	298,275	-	298,275	285,972
<i>Other income</i>		-	-	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME		450,871	48,253	499,124	457,747
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	5	136,681	48,253	184,934	158,334
Communicate Conference	5	102,442	-	102,442	86,881
Education and Engagement	5	184,927	-	184,927	225,343
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	424,051	48,253	472,304	470,558
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure) and net		26,819	-	26,819	(12,811)
Transfer between funds		(50,000)	50,000		
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		59,735	-	59,735	72,546
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward		36,554	50,000	86,554	59,735
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above.

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible assets	8	1,922	3,934
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	9	75,932	61,568
Cash at bank and in hand		103,412	74,389
		179,344	135,957
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(94,712)	(80,158)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		84,632	55,800
TOTAL NET (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		86,554	59,735
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	13		
Unrestricted funds	14	36,554	56,235
Designated funds	15	50,000	3,500
		86,554	59,735
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue.

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by



(On behalf of Trustees)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Bristol Natural History Consortium meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees have considered the 12 month period from the date of the approval of the financial statements. The Trustees note that the position of the unrestricted reserves has improved each year since 31st December 2019. At the time of filing the Trustees are reviewing the reserves policy and treatment of unrestricted reserves as they make long term plans for the success and stability of the charity.

(c) Income

All income is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Intangible income is recognised as an incoming resource where the provider of the service has incurred a financial cost. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable, unless they specifically relate to a future period, in which case they are deferred.

(d) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Most expenditure is directly attributable to a specific activity and is allocated to that activity. However, the costs of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on core staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

· Festival of Nature	25%
· Communicate Conference	25%
· Education & Engagement	50%

(e) Donated services and facilities

Donated services & facilities are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received. This will be the price the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for a service or facility of equivalent utility to the charity.

(f) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held is included when receivable by the charity.

(g) Funds accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each funds is included in the notes to the accounts.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) **Tangible fixed assets**

The cost of tangible fixed assets is written-off by equal annual instalments over their expected useful life as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years straight line
Website	4 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	4 years straight line

(i) **Pension costs**

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The employer contributions made by the charity are treated as an expense and disclosed in note 7 to the accounts.

(j) **Operating leases**

No leases at 31st December 2024

2 PRIOR PERIOD COMPARATIVES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME FROM			
Donations	70,000	17,714	87,714
Other trading activities	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	37,281	16,135	53,416
Communicate Conference	30,645		30,645
Education and Engagement	186,013	99,959	285,972
Other income	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME	323,939	133,808	457,747
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	129,585	28,749	158,334
Communicate Conference	86,881	-	86,881
Education and Engagement	96,284	129,059	225,343
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	312,751	157,808	470,558
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	11,188	(24,000)	(12,811)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

3 DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Member subscriptions	70,000	-	70,000	70,000
<i>Donations:</i>				
In kind donations	-	12,500	12,500	12,000
Company donations			-	5,100
Individual donations		1,045	1,045	614
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	70,000	13,545	83,545	87,714
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

3 DONATIONS (Continued)

A summary of the in kind donated services is set out below:

	Total Funds <u>2024</u> £	Total Funds <u>2023</u> £
Design costs	2,500	2,000
Use of exhibition space/site services (Festival of Nature)	10,000	10,000
Use of exhibition space (Communicate)	-	-
Marketing support	-	-
Storage space	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,500	12,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

4 INCOME

	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u> £	Restricted <u>Funds</u> £	Total Funds <u>2024</u> £	Total Funds <u>2023</u> £
Festival of Nature				
Sponsorship	15,332		15,332	17,260
Sales	933		933	1,911
Grants	26,224	34,708	60,932	32,245
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	42,489	34,708	77,197	51,416
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Communicate Conference				
Sponsorship	5,000		5,000	5,000
Sales	35,107		35,107	25,645
Grants			-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	40,107	-	40,107	30,645
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Education & Engagement				
<i>Education & Engagement</i>			-	99,959
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>			-	3,500
Sponsorship			-	-
Sales	196,365		196,365	20,742
Grants	101,910		101,910	161,771
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Education & Engagement (Total)	298,275	-	298,275	285,972
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

5 TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Staff <u>Costs</u> £	Other Direct <u>Costs</u> £	Total <u>2024</u> £	Total <u>2023</u> £
Festival of Nature	87,225	97,709	184,934	158,346
Communicate Conference	55,190	47,252	102,442	86,892
Education & Engagement	135,065	6,321	141,385	225,365
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	277,480	151,282	428,762	470,603
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total <u>2024</u> £	Total <u>2023</u> £
Premises costs	55,375	62,960
Event & project costs	83,126	83,533
Office costs	33,183	23,478
Legal & professional costs	10,272	4,007
Depreciation	2,568	2,756
Bad Debt write off	10,300	15,000
VAT partial exemption adjustment		2,810

5 TOTAL EXPENDITURE (Continued)

	194,824	194,545		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Festival of Nature	136,681	48,253	184,934	158,346
Communicate Conference	102,442		102,442	86,892
<i>Euro Bioblitz Education & Engagement</i>	184,927		184,927	201,365
<i>Sub-total</i>	184,927	-	184,927	225,365
TOTAL	424,051	48,253	472,304	470,603

6 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	2568	2,801
Independent Examination	550	550
Accounting & Book-keeping services	6423	3,457

7 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	156,492	146,683
Employer's National Insurance	11,466	9,285
Employer's pensions	3,352	4,190
Freelance staff	65,631	33,259
	236,941	193,416

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more. The average number of employees during the year was 6 (2024).

The charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2024: £nil), neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2024: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £44593 (2024: £42950).

8	TANGIBLE ASSETS	Website <u>Development</u> £	Computer <u>Equipment</u> £	Office <u>Furniture</u> £	Festival <u>Equipment</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
	COST					
	At 1 January 2024	8,000	4,055	664	271	12,990
	Additions	-	556	-	-	556
	Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2024	8,000	4,611	664	271	13,545
	DEPRECIATION					
	At 1 January 2024	5,000	3,340	664	51	9,055
	Charge for the year	2,000	500	-	68	2,568
	At 31 December 2024	7,000	3,841	664	118	11,623
	NET BOOK VALUE					
	At 31 December 2024	1,000	770	-	152	1,922
	At 31 December 2023	3,000	714	-	220	3,934
9	DEBTORS				2024 £	2023 £
	Trade debtors				73,800	60,256
	Prepayments & accrued income				2,132	1,312
	Taxation and social security				-	-
	Other debtors				-	-
					75,932	61,568
10	CREDITORS				2024 £	2023 £
	Amounts falling due within one year:					
	Trade creditors				19,877	2,731
	Taxation and social security				9,835	7,401
	Accruals				-	26
	Deferred income				65,000	70,000
	Other creditors				-	-
					94,712	80,158
11	DEFERRED INCOME				2024 £	2023 £
	Deferred income comprises subscriptions and grants invoiced in advance.					
	Balance as at 1 January 2024				70,000	70,000
	Amount released to income earned from charitable activities				(70,000)	(70,000)
	Amount deferred in year				65,000	70,000
	Balance as at 31 December 2024				65,000	70,000

12 OPERATING LEASES

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Not later than 1 year	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

13 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2024</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2024</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Bristol Festival of Nature Communicate</i>	-	48,253	(48,253)	-	-
<i>Education & Engagement Parks Accelerator</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>	-	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	48,253	(48,253)	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

14 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2024</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2024</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	56,235	450,871	(420,551)	(50,000)	36,554
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

15 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2024</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2024</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	3,500	-	(3,500)	50,000	50,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Designated funds consist of £3,500 of funds received for Festival of Nature Youth panel 2024

Designated funds consist of £50,000 for Festival of Nature 2025

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	<u>General Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted Funds</u> £	<u>Designated funds</u>	<u>Total</u> £
Tangible fixed assets	1,922	-	-	1,922
Cash at bank and in hand	103,412	-	-	103,412
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(18,780)	-	-	(18,780)
	<hr/> 86,554	<hr/> -	<hr/> -	<hr/> 86,554 <hr/>

17 RELATED PARTIES

Avon Wildlife Trust

Avon Wildlife Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Julie Doherty. Avon Wildlife Trust is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

Bath & North East

Bath & North East Somerset Council is represented on the Steering Group by Mark Minkley. Bath & North East Somerset Council is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

BBC

BBC is represented on the Steering Group by Hannah Stott and Dulcie Arnold. BBC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC

Bristol City Council

Bristol City Council is represented on the Steering Group by Richard Ennion and Isla Gladstone. BCC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

Bristol Zoological

Bristol Zoological Society is represented on the Steering Group by Mark Kennett. As a subscribing organisation, Bristol Zoological Society paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

Defra

Defra is represented on the Steering Group by Jessica Everett and as a subscribing organisation paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

Forestry England

Forestry England is represented on the Steering Group by Naomi Fuller and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

National Trust

National Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Simon Lawrence and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

Natural England

Natural England is represented on the Steering Group by Chloe Lawson and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

University of West of England

The University of the West of England is represented on the Steering Group by Jackie Rogers and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Rosie Walker and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

University of Bristol

The University of Bristol is represented on the Steering Group by Rhys Charles and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

University of Bath

The University of Bath is represented on the Steering Group by Helen Featherstone and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

*Wildfowl & Wetlands
Trust*

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Hannah Millbank and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2024.

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1123432

Accounts

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

(A company limited by guarantee)

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Company registration number: 06472186
Registered charity number: 1123432**

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Highlight report	update
Trustees notes	update
Independent Examiner's report	update
Statement of financial activities	update
Balance sheet	update
Notes to the financial statements	update



The Natural
History
Consortium

Annual Report 2023

The Natural History Consortium

Dear Natural History Partners,

This Annual Summary has been prepared for staff, volunteers and stakeholders at our Consortium partner organisations. Please do share it with colleagues, and we look forward to hearing what ideas it may spark for further activities.

2023 has been a tremendous year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Natural History Consortium. It gave us numerous opportunities to reflect on how the collaboration between partners has strengthened, how the partnership has grown from 8 founding partners to our current 14, and how our joint activities have evolved alongside the environmental communication sector.

Mostly importantly, we continue to reflect on how we can increase our impact, and we welcome your support and challenge in this collective endeavour. More information about each of our programmes is available on our website at www.bnhc.org.uk, or we would be happy to speak to you about areas of interest.

Our Mission: Engaging everyone with the natural world through Collaborative Action



The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Partnership in Action

- ✿ Our **Steering Group** is our main strategic and decision-making body, where all 14 partners meet regularly throughout the year. The group is supported by our charity's small Trustee Board and direct the staff's efforts by consensus.
- ✿ Our **Communicate Committee** sets the editorial for our national conference and other sector-facing work.
- ✿ Our events, ad-hoc committees and working groups bring partners together around specialist topics and at events.

Leveraging Partner Contributions

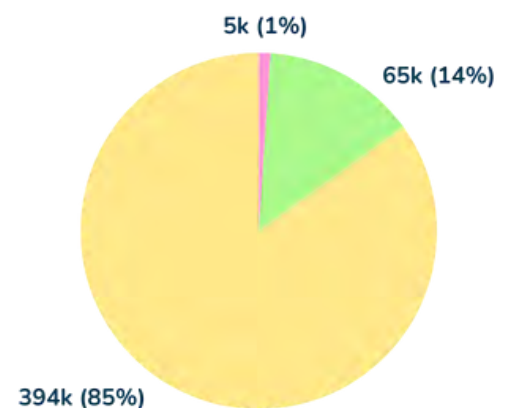
- ✿ NHC partners have made the same annual contribution for twenty years since the partnership was formed. Each year we leverage each organisation's financial contribution and commitment into through fundraising into increased resources for joint programmes.

£5,000 – your organisation's contribution in 2023 (1%)

£65,000 – other partner's contribution in 2023 (14%)

£394,000 – funds leveraged and raised for collaborative programmes (85%)

£464,000 – charity turnover for the year



Volunteers

- ✿ In 2023, the Consortium and NHC team was joined by **50 volunteers**, supporting the activities of a range of expanding public programmes. Many volunteers were involved in multiple events, developing their skills and connections further.



Staff

- ✿ Our experienced team supports our partners and delivers joint events under their direction.



Savita Willmott (CEO), Stuart Payton (Senior Programmes Manager), Ellie Turner-Wallace (Senior Programmes Manager), Izzy Pulletz (Marketing and Communications Manager), Loz Emerson (Citizen Science Officer)

EuroBioBlitz

EuroBioBlitz is a partnership programme and communications campaign, funded by the **European Commission's Researchers Night** programme. It has allowed us to replicate our partnership learning from City Nature Challenge into a European-wide activity. Learning resources have been developed in **8 European languages** (English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, Polish).

In 2023, **64,397** records of wildlife were made by **8,720** participants, with **32,637** records identified to "research grade" level. Plans are underway for 2024 to include resources in an additional 4 languages: Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian and Dutch.



Let it Grow

Behind the scenes, we supported our BBC colleagues this year with the delivery of the Let it Grow campaign across **Radio 2** and **BBC Children's and Education** (Blue Peter, a new digital game, and online content). With a mission to help UK audiences "**turn grey spaces into wild and colourful places**" the campaign got Radio 2 listeners and Blue Peter watchers out growing and planting.



Objective 2 - To facilitate, develop, and disseminate novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience.

Our work on objective 2 focuses on innovation, piloting new approaches, evaluation and dissemination. The focus is on adaptation and learning – with some activities working closely with a few participants and other attracting thousands.

Emergency Tree Fund Pilots

NHC was commissioned as part of the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund to explore new approaches to **engagement, volunteering, and formal education** to help successfully deliver the West of England Tree and Woodland Strategy (Forest of Avon plan). This has included woodland walks with diverse audiences, sessions with Disabled Adults, and a national survey of individuals and organisations on new opportunities for environmental volunteering.



Walking Forest

The “Walking Forest” built on our tree-themed art commission (Overstory) in 2022, and took us back to the Broadmead area in June 2023. **We created a moveable ‘parade’ of street trees through three city centre locations in Bristol**, giving away fruit trees and speaking to people about their barriers to planting at home. We’ll be building on this work in 2024 seeking new creative opportunities to connect tree supply with residents.



— Ecological Emergency: 'Blue Strand' —

NHC has supported implementation of **Bristol's Ecological Emergency Strategy** since 2021, and in June 2023 ran a programme focused on 'blue spaces' across the region. We delivered programme of **20 different events** including business networking on boats and paddleboards, talks about beavers and eels, open water swimming, river cleans, and a "fish carnival" for our youngest audience members under 5. We'll be building on this work in 2024 by embedding 'blue' and 'green' across our Festival of Nature programme.



— Collective Field Notebook —

Funding from Literature Works allowed us to pilot a **literature-focused outdoor activity** as part of Festival of Nature in June 2023. Inspired by Charles Darwin's unusual use of field notebooks, a riverside walk with writers and artists allowed us to explore new types of programming for Festival of Nature.



— Sparks —

We were delighted to support the team at 'Sparks' – a new **sustainable hub** in central Bristol, by providing early ideas and facilitation for the creation of a nature-themed space.



Objective 3 - To build, support and pilot effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and to help organisations learn from each other.

Our work on this objective is both regional and national – bringing together professionals and organisations together in curated events, discussions, and co-delivery.

Communicate

Communicate is a flagship event for our partnership: a national conference for environmental communication professionals running since 2004. In 2023 the conference expanded yet again, with hybrid and workshop sessions in **London**, **Manchester** and **Bristol**. These ran alongside a three-day **online** conference. In total, NHC partners together curated **40** sessions over three days, attracting **1,016** delegates and **100** speakers on the theme of “Together for Nature”.



Making Connections

In January 2023 we brought academic and non-academic staff together from across our partnership to explore collaboration and connections. **24 researchers** attending from our HEI institutions, holding facilitated discussions on future academic research, impact case studies, joint funding bids and academic / student placement projects.



RECLAIM Conference

We received investment from the UKRI funded RECLAIM Network (Reclaiming Forgotten Cities - Turning cities from vulnerable spaces to healthy places for people) to host a symposium during Festival of Nature on public engagement with green and blue infrastructure, attracting **21 specialists** from **12 organisations**.

UK City Nature Challenge Network

In 2023 NHC brought together **22 cities** taking part in the City Nature Challenge through **6 online facilitated meetings** to support capacity and learning between organisers. 83% of participants said they found these meetings “very helpful” and 17% “helpful”. **100%** of respondents said that they would like these meetings to continue for future events and we are currently planning for 2024 programmes.

Together, UK cities recorded **79,293** total wildlife observations, a **34% increase** from 59,090 in 2022.



Celebrating our 20th anniversary

A special strand of activity during our 20th year ensured we took the opportunity to reflect on our partnership’s work to date and plans for the future. We are currently planning a **new publication** collating learning across the Communicate conference between 2003-2024.



The Natural History Consortium

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action.

- Avon Wildlife Trust
- Bath & North East Somerset Council
- BBC
- Bristol City Council
- Bristol Zoological Society
- Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
- Forestry England
- National Trust
- Natural England
- University of Bath
- University of Bristol
- UWE Bristol
- WWT
- Woodland Trust

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reference and administrative details

Company number:	06472186
Charity number:	1123432
Registered office:	Jubilee House Bristol BS1 4RW
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiners:	Linden Accountants

Key management personnel

Trustees:	Justin Morris – Bristol Zoo Ian Barrett – Avon Wildlife Trust Peter Ball – Independent Trustee Martin Brasher – Independent Trustee Rosa Robinson - Independent Trustee
Principal Staff:	Savita Willmott (Chief Executive)
Company Secretary:	Savita Willmott

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14th January 2008 and registered as a charity on 3 April 2008.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The Consortium has 14 partners, which work together in the following way:

Members:

Bristol Zoo Gardens and Avon Wildlife Trust are members of the organisation. In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, each member has the right to appoint one representative to the Board of Trustees. The members also each have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Associate members (Consortium members):

Bath & North East Somerset Council, BBC, Bristol City Council, Forestry England, Natural England, University of Bristol, University of the West of England, University of Bath, National Trust, Wildfowl Wetlands Trust, and The Woodland Trust are associate members (Consortium members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Associate members (Supporter members):

Defra are associate members (Supporter members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to send one representative to steering group meetings.

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible assets	8	3,934	5,921
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	9	61,568	80,894
Cash at bank and in hand		74,389	64,008
		135,957	144,901
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(80,158)	(78,277)
		55,800	66,625
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS			
TOTAL NET (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		59,734	72,546
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	13	(0)	-
Unrestricted funds	14	80,190	47,622
Designated funds	15	3,500	24,924
		83,690	72,546
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		83,690	72,546

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue.

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by



.....
 (On behalf of Trustees)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bristol Natural History Consortium for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibility and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required under section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- The accounts do not accord with those records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements under section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of my independent examination; or

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

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

Signed: *Mike Grant*

Name: Michael Grant ACPA

Address: Linden Accountants Limited, Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9LB

Date: 22/08/24

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum & Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). The company has taken advantage of the exemption to not have to prepare a strategic report in accordance with "The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013".

The charity's legal name remains Bristol Natural History Consortium, however the operating and public name for the partnership is The Natural History Consortium (NHC)

1. OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The mission statement and objectives are regularly reviewed on an annual basis by Consortium members.

1.1 Our mission statement:

The Natural History Consortium - Engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action

1.2 Our objectives:

The company's charitable objects are to advance the public understanding of wildlife and the natural environment and their conservation.

It achieves this by:

- Delivering entertaining and informative events and activities that inspire greater public interest, volunteering and action for nature
- Facilitating, developing, and disseminating novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience
- Building, supporting and piloting effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and help organisations learn from each other

1.3 Ensuring our work delivers our objectives

The Consortium's Trustees and Steering Group review progress of the partnership and activities through regular Trustees' meetings and bi-monthly Steering Group meetings.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how our activities will contribute to and deliver our mission statement.

1.4 Our activities

We carry out these objectives through a range of activities, guided by our mission statement:

- Festival of Nature – an annual public festival and associated public facing activities
- Communicate – an annual conference and an online community supported by research and resources.
- BioBlitz – a range of public activity and community of practice supporting public participation in biological recording
- Volunteers programme – supporting skills development and volunteer activity through our programmes
- Research and development – a strand of piloting, evaluation and learning activity using
- Governance and management.

1.5 How our activities deliver public benefit

The relationship of our activities to the target beneficiaries are described below. All of our charitable activities focus on environmental communication.

ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS	IMPACT
<p>FESTIVAL OF NATURE Bringing together content from across the partnership under a common framework for engagement, Festival of Nature is the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world delivering an exciting new programme across the West of England each year since 2003.</p>	<p>A cohesive, inspiring, engaging, ambitious programme of activity that delivers against seven strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner interest - Fundability - User experience - Impact (action for nature) - Inclusivity - Covid regulations - Innovation & shared learning 	<p>Audiences in the West of England are more aware of environmental issues, more connected with nature and empowered to take new, sustained, positive action for nature.</p>
<p>COMMUNICATE Started in 2004, Communicate is an annual environmental communication conference bringing together a diverse group of delegates each year to develop their skills, share best practice and debate latest issues in science communication, nature conservation and engaging people with the natural world.</p>	<p>Convening the UK environmental communications sector through an annual programme of innovative and engaging conference, workshops and conversations</p>	<p>Environmental communicators are better equipped with tools, knowledge and connections to influence positive change for nature</p>
<p>BIOBLITZ Since 2009 NHC has shown leadership in the development of BioBlitz as a format for public engagement in biological recording and citizen science, representing the West of England in the international City Nature Challenge since 2018. NHC represents Bristol & Bath City Region and spearheads UK participation in this global race for citizens to generate the most wildlife records data possible in 4 days.</p>	<p>A regional programme of activity promoting public participation in biological recording, piloting new innovative formats for participatory community science</p> <p>Convening and supporting national and international communities of practice around BioBlitz and associated formats to share learning, and foster collaboration</p> <p>Biological records data contributed at scale to local, national and international datasets</p>	<p>Participants feel better connected and more knowledgeable about nature on their doorsteps, and are empowered to take new, sustained, positive action for nature through community science.</p> <p>The biological recording and community science sector are better equipped with tools, knowledge and connections to support public participation in biological recording and community science</p> <p>Conservation and land management practice and research are better informed by biological records data.</p>
<p>VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME NHC runs an on-going, active volunteer programme designed to train and support students, those looking to develop skills, and those looking to make a change of career.</p>	<p>Cohorts of volunteers are Trained and supported to take leadership roles in NHC public facing activities. Specific strands of volunteer training, advocacy and skills development are built into NHC programmes</p>	<p>Volunteers are upskilled and build experience in environmental communications and engagement practice</p> <p>Young volunteers and wildlife enthusiasts benefit from peer-to-peer learning and social cohesion</p>
<p>RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT Through our regular senior stakeholder meetings and frequent informal contact, we have a space for sharing learning and Challenges. Building on core programmes, we explore new ways to facilitate collaboration between Consortium members as well as external partners, to make things happen together.</p>	<p>A collaborative portfolio of funded projects that support our charitable objectives, provide opportunities to support delivery of partners individual priorities, build capacity and facilitate collaboration between partners</p>	<p>NHC reputation as a leading collaboration space and safe pair of hands for delivering against partner priorities</p> <p>New collaborations, and innovations are fostered and disseminated through the Consortium charitable structure and activities – contributing to research and best practice in environmental communications</p> <p>Building core capacity through funded activity, and consultancy.</p>
<p>GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>Financial, administrative, team management and policy responsibilities</p> <p>Regular meetings of the Trustees and Steering Group</p>	<p>Ensuring financial stability, compliance and best practice in charitable governance</p> <p>Ensuring effective and efficient investment of resources to meet charitable objectives</p>

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME FROM					
Donations	3	70,000	17,714	87,714	72,000
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	4	37,281	16,135	53,416	49,709
Communicate Conference	4	30,645	-	30,645	20,541
Education and Engagement	4	186,013	99,959	285,972	200,426
<i>Other income</i>		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		323,939	133,808	457,747	342,676
EXPENDITURE ON:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	5	129,596	28,749	158,346	90,349
Communicate Conference	5	86,892	-	86,892	97,959
Education and Engagement	5	96,306	129,059	225,365	154,321
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	312,795	157,808	470,603	342,629
Net income/(expenditure) and net		11,144	(24,000)	(12,856)	47
Transfer between funds		(24,000)	24,000	-	-
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		72,546	-	72,546	72,499
Total funds carried forward		59,690	(0)	59,690	72,546

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above.

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible assets	8	3,934	5,921
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	9	61,568	80,894
Cash at bank and in hand		74,389	64,008
		135,957	144,901
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(80,158)	(78,277)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		55,800	66,625
TOTAL NET (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		59,734	72,546
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	13	(0)	-
Unrestricted funds	14	80,190	47,622
Designated funds	15	3,500	24,924
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		83,690	72,546

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue.

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by

.....
(On behalf of Trustees)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Bristol Natural History Consortium meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) **Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The Trustees have considered the 12 month period from the date of the approval of the financial statements. The Trustees note that the position of the unrestricted reserves has improved each year since 31st December 2019. At the time of filing the Trustees are reviewing the reserves policy and treatment of unrestricted reserves as they make long term plans for the success and stability of the charity.

(c) **Income**

All income is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Intangible income is recognised as an incoming resource where the provider of the service has incurred a financial cost. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable, unless they specifically relate to a future period, in which case they are deferred.

(d) **Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Most expenditure is directly attributable to a specific activity and is allocated to that activity. However, the costs of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on core staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

· Festival of Nature	20%
· Communicate Conference	40%
· Education & Engagement	40%

(e) **Donated services and facilities**

Donated services & facilities are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received. This will be the price the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for a service or facility of equivalent utility to the charity.

(f) **Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held is included when receivable by the charity.

(g) **Funds accounting**

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each funds is included in the notes to the accounts.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) **Tangible fixed assets**

The cost of tangible fixed assets is written-off by equal annual instalments over their expected useful life as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years straight line
Website	4 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	4 years straight line

(i) **Pension costs**

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The employer contributions made by the charity are treated as an expense and disclosed in note 7 to the accounts.

(j) **Operating leases**

No leases at 31st December 2023

2 PRIOR PERIOD COMPARATIVES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME FROM			
Donations	70,000	2,000	72,000
Other trading activities	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			-
Festival of Nature	40,284	9,425	49,709
Communicate Conference	20,541		20,541
Education and Engagement	196,005	4,420	200,426
Other income	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME	326,831	15,845	342,676
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	77,944	12,405	90,349
Communicate Conference	97,959	-	97,959
Education and Engagement	149,901	4,420	154,321
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	325,804	16,825	342,629
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	1,027	(980)	47
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Member subscriptions	70,000	-	70,000	70,000
<i>Donations:</i>				
In kind donations	-	12,000	12,000	2,000
Company donations	-	5,100	5,100	-
Individual donations		614	614	-
	<hr/> 70,000	<hr/> 17,714	<hr/> 87,714	<hr/> 72,000

A summary of the in kind donated services is set out below:

	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Design costs	2,000	2,000
Use of exhibition space/site services (Festival of Nature)	10,000	-
Use of exhibition space (Communicate)	-	-
Marketing support	-	-
Storage space	-	-
	<hr/> 12,000	<hr/> 2,000

4 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Festival of Nature				
Sponsorship	17,260	-	17,260	8,562
Sales	1,911	-	1,911	6,248
Grants	18,110	16,135	34,245	34,899
	<hr/> 37,281	<hr/> 16,135	<hr/> 53,416	<hr/> 49,709
Communicate Conference				
Sponsorship	5,000	-	5,000	-
Sales	25,645	-	25,645	20,541
Grants	-	-	-	-
	<hr/> 30,645	<hr/> -	<hr/> 30,645	<hr/> 20,541
Education & Engagement				
<i>Education & Engagement</i>	-	99,959	99,959	65,107
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>	3,500	-	3,500	5,000
Canopy project	-	-	-	122,920
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Sales	20,742	-	20,742	7,398
Grants	161,771	-	161,771	-
	<hr/> 186,013	<hr/> 99,959	<hr/> 285,972	<hr/> 200,426

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

5 TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £	Other Direct Costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Festival of Nature	82,011	76,335	158,346	90,349
Communicate Conference	48,132	38,760	86,892	97,959
Education & Engagement	145,871	79,495	225,365	154,321
	276,014	194,590	470,603	342,629

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Event & project costs	83,533	37,013
Premises costs	62,960	29,418
Office costs	23,478	41,644
Legal & professional costs	4,007	6,567
Depreciation	2,756	2,654
Bad Debt write off	15,000	-
VAT partial exemption adjustment	2,810	14,196
	194,545	131,492

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Festival of Nature	129,596	28,749	158,346	90,349
Communicate Conference	86,892	-	86,892	97,959
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>	-	24,000	24,000	5,000
Canopy project	-	-	-	42,225
<i>Education & Engagement</i>	96,306	105,059	201,365	107,096
<i>Sub-total</i>	96,306	129,059	225,365	154,321
TOTAL	312,795	157,808	470,603	342,629

6 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	2801	2,654
Independent Examination	550	550
Accounting & Book-keeping services	3457	5,793

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

7 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

Staff costs were as follows:	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	146,683	123,647
Employer's National Insurance	9,285	6,767
Employer's pensions	4,190	2,757
Freelance staff	33,259	62,284
	<u>193,416</u>	<u>195,455</u>

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more. The average number of employees during the year was 5 (2022 - 5).

The charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2022: £nil), neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2022: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £42,950.75 (2022: £37,356).

8 TANGIBLE ASSETS	<u>Website Development</u>	<u>Computer Equipment</u>	<u>Office Furniture</u>	<u>Festival Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At 1 January 2023	8,000	3,556	664	-	12,220
Additions	-	498	-	271	769
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>8,000</u>	<u>4,055</u>	<u>664</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>12,990</u>
At 31 December 2023	8,000	4,055	664	271	12,990
	<u>8,000</u>	<u>4,055</u>	<u>664</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>12,990</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 January 2023	3,000	2,635	664	-	6,299
Charge for the year	2,000	705	-	51	2,756
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>3,340</u>	<u>664</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>9,055</u>
At 31 December 2023	5,000	3,340	664	51	9,055
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>3,340</u>	<u>664</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>9,055</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 December 2023	3,000	714	-	220	3,934
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>714</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>3,934</u>
At 31 December 2022	5,000	921	-	-	5,921
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>921</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,921</u>

9 DEBTORS	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	60,256	80,181
Prepayments & accrued income	1,312	313
Taxation and social security	-	-
Other debtors	-	400
	<u>61,568</u>	<u>80,894</u>

The trade debtors include a credit of £5,224 (2022: £10,224) in relation to the BBC. A credit was raised in 2018 and annual memberships for the BBC have been set against this. This will continue until the credit has been used up.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

10 CREDITORS	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade creditors	2,731	821
Taxation and social security	7,401	4,928
Accruals	26	2,528
Deferred income	70,000	70,000
Other creditors	-	-
	80,158	78,277
	80,158	78,277
11 DEFERRED INCOME		
Deferred income comprises subscriptions and grants invoiced in advance.		
	2023 £	2022 £
Balance as at 1 January 2023	70,000	70,000
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(70,000)	(70,000)
Amount deferred in year	70,000	70,000
	70,000	70,000
Balance as at 31 December 2023	70,000	70,000
12 OPERATING LEASES		
The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:		
	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-
	-	-
	-	-

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

13 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2023</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Bristol Festival of Nature Communicate</i>	-	28,749	(28,749)		(0)
<i>Education & Engagement Parks Accelerator</i>	-	105,059	(105,059)		-
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>	-	-	(24,000)	24,000	-
	-	133,808	(157,808)	24,000	(0)

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Bristol City Council - Walking Forest

This funding is in support of an arts project at Festival of Nature.

Postcode Local Trust

This funding is in support of citizen science activities at Festival of Nature.

West of England Combined Authority

This funding is in support of a collaborative programme engaging audience with pollinators.

14 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2023</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	47,622	320,439	(288,795)	924	80,190

15 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2023</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	24,924	3,500	-	(24,924)	3,500

Designated funds consist of £24,924 of funds received for the staffing of the EuroBioBlitz between January - March 2023

Designated funds consist of £3,500 of funds received for Festival of Nature Youth panel 2024

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Designated funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	3,934	-	-	3,934
Cash at bank and in hand	70,890	(0)	3,500	74,389
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(18,590)	-	-	(18,590)
	56,235	(0)	3,500	59,735

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

17 RELATED PARTIES

Avon Wildlife Trust

Avon Wildlife Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Julie Doherty. Avon Wildlife Trust is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Bath & North East Somerset Council is represented on the Steering Group by Mark Minkley. Bath & North East Somerset Council is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

BBC

BBC is represented on the Steering Group by Stephanie Marshall. BBC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

Bristol City Council

Bristol City Council is represented on the Steering Group by Richard Ennion and Ray Barnett. BCC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

Bristol Zoo Gardens

Bristol Zoo Gardens is represented on the Steering Group by Mark Kennett. As a subscribing organisation, Bristol Zoo paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

Defra

Defra is represented on the Steering Group by Sarah Swash and as a subscribing organisation paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

Forestry England

Forestry England is represented on the Steering Group by Naomi Fuller and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

National Trust

National Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Simon Lawrence and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

Natural England

Natural England is represented on the Steering Group by Sunita Welch and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

University of West of England

The University of the West of England is represented on the Steering Group by Jackie Rogers and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Rosie Walker and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

University of Bristol

The University of Bristol is represented on the Steering Group by Rhys Charles and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

University of Bath

The University of Bath is represented on the Steering Group by Heather Featherstone and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Penny Read and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2023

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Reference and administrative details

Company number:	06472186
Charity number:	1123432
Registered office:	Jubilee House Bristol BS1 4RW
Bankers:	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiners:	Linden Accountants

Key management personnel

Trustees:	Justin Morris – Bristol Zoo Ian Barrett – Avon Wildlife Trust Peter Ball – Independent Trustee Martin Brasher – Independent Trustee Rosa Robinson - Independent Trustee
Principal Staff:	Savita Willmott (Chief Executive)
Company Secretary:	Savita Willmott

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14th January 2008 and registered as a charity on 3 April 2008.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The Consortium has 14 partners, which work together in the following way:

Members:

Bristol Zoo Gardens and Avon Wildlife Trust are members of the organisation. In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, each member has the right to appoint one representative to the Board of Trustees. The members also each have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Associate members (Consortium members):

Bath & North East Somerset Council, BBC, Bristol City Council, Forestry England, Natural England, University of Bristol, University of the West of England, University of Bath, National Trust, Wildfowl Wetlands Trust, and The Woodland Trust are associate members (Consortium members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Associate members (Supporter members):

Defra are associate members (Supporter members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to send one representative to steering group meetings.

Organisational structure

The Consortium undertakes a range of activities that are managed in the following way:

Trustees – The Trustees undertake financial responsibility for the organisation in accordance with charity law. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis.

The Trustees are recruited and appointed from each of the Consortium's legal members, one from each, as well as independent Trustees as co-opted by The Board. Members of the board operate a "rolling chair" to lead each meeting.

Steering Group – The Steering Group undertake responsibility for all strategic planning and development for the organisation. The Steering Group meets every two months.

Risk Management

The steering group and the Trustees have considered the key risks facing the Consortium and have taken steps to mitigate them.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Company law requires the Trustee Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustee Board should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee Board is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Members of the Trustee Board, who are directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 14.

In accordance with company law, as the charity's Trustees, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's Independent Examiner is unaware; and
- As the Trustees of the charity we have taken all steps that ought to have been taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustee Board on

and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Peter Ball (On behalf of Trustees)



.....
Date



The Natural
History
Consortium

Annual Report 2023

The Natural History Consortium

2023 has been a tremendous year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Natural History Consortium.

It gave us numerous opportunities to reflect on how the collaboration between partners has strengthened, how the partnership has grown from 8 founding partners to our current 14, and how our joint activities have evolved alongside the environmental communication sector. Mostly importantly, we continue to reflect on how we can increase our impact, and we welcome your support and challenge in this collective endeavour.

More information about each of our programmes is available on our website at www.bnhc.org.uk, or we would be happy to speak to you about areas of interest.

Our Mission: Engaging everyone with the natural world through Collaborative Action



The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Partnership in Action

- ✿ Our **Steering Group** is our main strategic and decision-making body, where all 14 partners meet regularly throughout the year. The group is supported by our charity's small Trustee Board and direct the staff's efforts by consensus.
- ✿ Our **Communicate Committee** sets the editorial for our national conference and other sector-facing work.
- ✿ Our events, ad-hoc committees and working groups bring partners together around specialist topics and at events.

Leveraging Partner Contributions

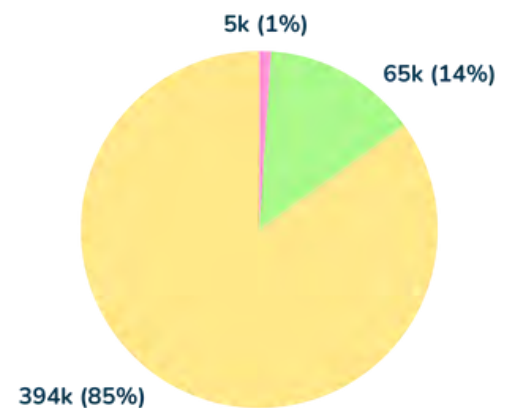
- ✿ NHC partners have made the same annual contribution for twenty years since the partnership was formed. Each year we leverage each organisation's financial contribution and commitment through fundraising into increased resources for joint programmes.

£5,000 – your organisation's contribution in 2023 (1%)

£65,000 – other partner's contributions in 2023 (14%)

£394,000 – funds leveraged and raised for collaborative programmes (85%)

£464,000 – charity turnover for the year



Volunteers

- ✿ In 2023, the Consortium and NHC team was joined by **50 volunteers**, supporting the activities in a range of expanding public programmes. Many volunteers were involved in multiple events, developing their skills and connections further.



Staff

- ✿ Our experienced team supports our partners and delivers joint events under your direction.



Savita Willmott (CEO), Stuart Payton (Senior Programmes Manager), Ellie Turner-Wallace (Senior Programmes Manager), Izzy Pulletz (Marketing and Communications Manager), Loz Emerson (Citizen Science Officer)

People for Pollinators

'People for Pollinators' was our first major collaborative delivery bid between NHC partners, funded by West of England Combined Authority's Pollinator Fund. Together NHC partners created **1,130m²** of new or improved habitats in **5** demonstration gardens, ran **45** workshops, **7** community events, and a **wildlife gardening competition**.

The project had significant, in-person engagement with **1,877** people across the West of England region and this will increase as partners' demonstration gardens come into bloom. People for Pollinators included an online 'Pesticide Reduction and Wildlife Friendly Gardening' community campaign, which reached **50k** users in the region.



City Nature Challenge

City Nature Challenge is an annual international wildlife recording event taking place over 4 days. Over **400** cities take part and NHC inspires audiences across the West of England to get involved. In 2023, the challenge took place between 28th April – 1st May. In the West of England region we supported audiences to record **1,296** species across **7,490** observations – making **3rd place** on the UK leader board and recording the **second highest number of species** during a City Nature Challenge for our region.



EuroBioBlitz

EuroBioBlitz is a partnership programme and communications campaign, funded in 2023 by UKRI, and part of **INTERSECTIONS** - a collaborative, international project supporting European researchers. It has allowed us to replicate our partnership learning from City Nature Challenge into a European-wide activity. Learning resources have been developed in **8 European languages** (English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, Polish).

In 2023, **64,397** records of wildlife were made by **8,720** participants, with **32,637** records identified to “research grade” level. Plans are underway for 2024 to include resources in an additional 4 languages: Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian and Dutch.



Let it Grow

Behind the scenes, we supported our BBC colleagues this year with the delivery of the Let it Grow campaign across **Radio 2** and **BBC Children's and Education** (Blue Peter, a new digital game, and online content). With a mission to help UK audiences “**turn grey spaces into wild and colourful places**” the campaign got Radio 2 listeners and Blue Peter watchers out growing and planting.



Objective 2 - To facilitate, develop, and disseminate novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience.

Our work on objective 2 focuses on innovation, piloting new approaches, evaluation and dissemination. The focus is on adaptation and learning – with some activities working closely with a few participants and other attracting thousands.

Emergency Tree Fund

NHC was commissioned as part of the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund to explore new approaches to **engagement, volunteering, and formal education** to help successfully deliver the West of England Tree and Woodland Strategy (Forest of Avon plan). This has included woodland walks with diverse audiences, sessions with Disabled Adults, and a national survey of individuals and organisations on new opportunities for environmental volunteering.



Walking Forest

The “Walking Forest” built on our 2022 tree-themed art commission, *Overstory*, and took us back to the Broadmead area in June 2023. **We created a moveable ‘parade’ of street trees through three city centre locations in Bristol**, giving away fruit trees and speaking to people about their barriers to planting at home. We’ll be building on this work in 2024 seeking new creative opportunities to connect tree supply with residents.



— Ecological Emergency: 'Blue Strand' —

NHC has supported implementation of **Bristol's Ecological Emergency Strategy** since 2021, and in June 2023 ran a programme focused on 'blue spaces' across the region. We delivered programme of **20 different events** including business networking on boats and paddleboards, talks about beavers and eels, open water swimming, river cleans, and a "fish carnival" for our youngest audience members under 5. We'll be building on this work in 2024 by embedding 'blue' and 'green' across our Festival of Nature programme.



— Collective Field Notebook —

Funding from Literature Works allowed us to pilot a **literature-focused outdoor activity** as part of Festival of Nature in June 2023. Inspired by Charles Darwin's unusual use of field notebooks, a riverside walk with writers and artists allowed us to explore new types of programming for Festival of Nature.



— Sparks —

We were delighted to support the team at 'Sparks' – a new **sustainable hub** in central Bristol, by providing early ideas and facilitation for the creation of a nature-themed space.



Objective 3 - To build, support and pilot effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and to help organisations learn from each other.

Our work on this objective is both regional and national – bringing together professionals and organisations together in curated events, discussions, and co-delivery.

Communicate

Communicate is a flagship event for our partnership: a national conference for environmental communication professionals running since 2004. In 2023 the conference expanded yet again, with hybrid and workshop sessions in **London**, **Manchester** and **Bristol**. These ran alongside a three-day **online** conference. In total, NHC partners together curated **40** sessions over three days, attracting **1,016** delegates and **100** speakers on the theme of “Together for Nature”.



Making Connections

In January 2023 we brought academic and non-academic staff together from across our partnership to explore collaboration and connections. **24 researchers** attending from our HEI institutions, holding facilitated discussions on future academic research, impact case studies, joint funding bids and academic / student placement projects.



RECLAIM Conference

We received investment from the UKRI funded RECLAIM Network (Reclaiming Forgotten Cities - Turning cities from vulnerable spaces to healthy places for people) to host a symposium during Festival of Nature on public engagement with green and blue infrastructure, attracting **21 specialists** from **12 organisations**.

UK City Nature Challenge Network

In 2023 NHC brought together **22 UK cities** taking part in City Nature Challenge through **6 online facilitated meetings** to support capacity and learning between organisers. 83% of participants said they found these meetings “very helpful” and 17% “helpful”. **100%** of respondents said that they would like these meetings to continue for future events and we are currently planning for 2024 programmes.

Together, UK cities recorded a total of **79,293** wildlife observations, a **34% increase** from 59,090 in 2022.



Celebrating our 20th anniversary

A special strand of activity during our 20th year ensured we took the opportunity to reflect on our partnership’s work to date and plans for the future. We are currently planning a **new publication** collating learning from twenty years of the Communicate conference.



The Natural History Consortium

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action.

- 
Avon Wildlife Trust
- 
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives
- 
BBC
- 
BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
- 
BRISTOL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
- 
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
- 
Forestry England
- 
National Trust
- 
NATURAL ENGLAND
- 
UNIVERSITY OF BATH
- 
University of BRISTOL
- 
UWE Bristol
University of the West of England
- 
WWT
For wetlands. For life.
- 
WOODLAND TRUST

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1123432

Accounts

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

(A company limited by guarantee)

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Company registration number: 06472186
Registered charity number: 1123432**

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>Page</u>
Highlight report	3
Trustees notes	12
Independent Examiner's report	14
Statement of financial activities	15
Balance sheet	19
Notes to the financial statements	20

The Natural History Consortium

Annual Report 2022

We're so pleased to share this year's Annual Report for you to share with colleagues and internal and external stakeholders. The charity continues to grow, in both the range of co-created programmes being delivered and the wider impact with audiences. It has been wonderful to welcome partners to slowly return to face to face meetings and events during the year alongside a thriving calendar of online collaboration. For the nineteenth year running, partners have come together to co-deliver events for regional and national public and stakeholder audiences over a full calendar year. As we approach the 20th anniversary year of this vibrant and unique partnership, we've decided to include a number of photographs in this year's summary so you can see the programmes in action.

The Natural History Consortium: Our Shared Objectives

Objective 1: To deliver entertaining and informative events and activities that inspire greater public interest, volunteering and action for nature.

Objective 2: To facilitate, develop, and disseminate novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience.

Objective 3: To build, support and pilot effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and to help organisations learn from each other.

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Bath & North East Somerset Council

BBC



BRISTOL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Forestry England



NATURAL ENGLAND

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

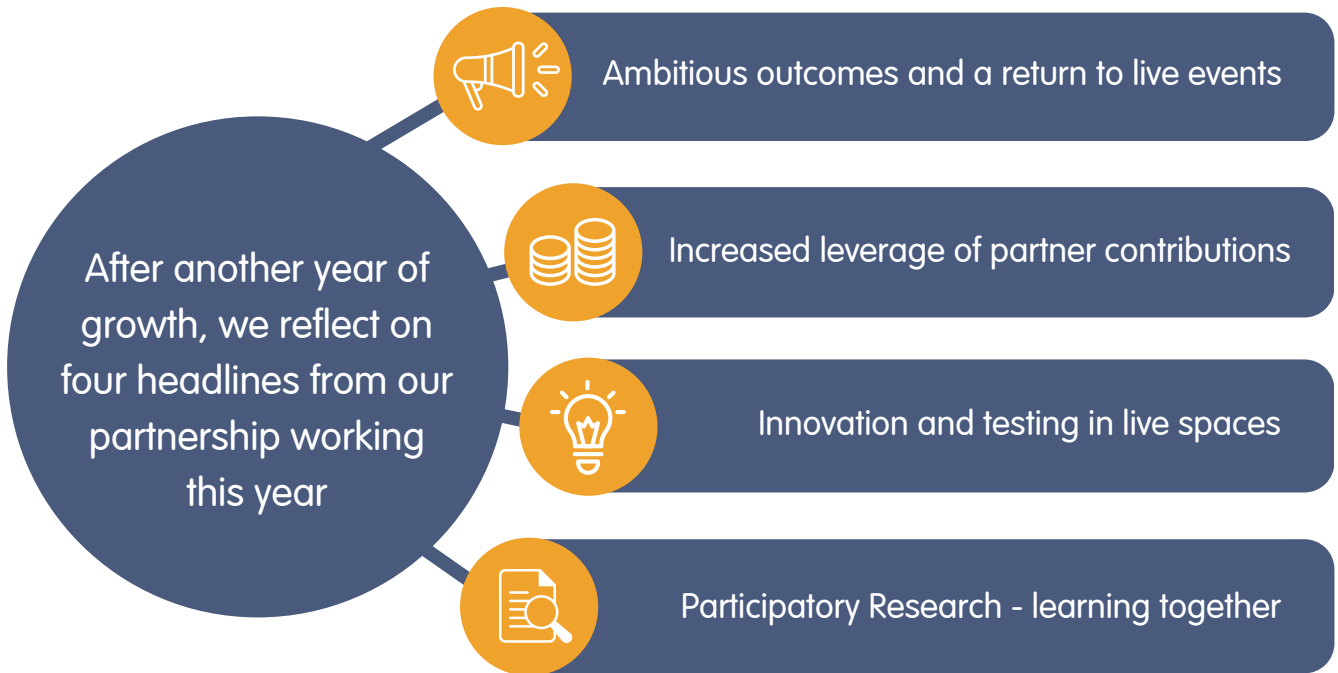
University of BRISTOL

UWE Bristol University of the West of England



WOODLAND TRUST

Headlines and Context



In February 2022 we were pleased the Consortium was awarded 'Top Innovator' status by the World Economic Forum's Uplink programme following an international challenge focused on biodiversity in cities.



The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Bath & North East Somerset Council



Headlines and Context



Ambitious outcomes and a return to live events

In 2022 we focused on exploring opportunities for fusing the most effective elements of online meetings and events alongside face to face engagement. Our 19th Festival of Nature was based around 95 smaller events that took place over 10 days, building capacity through our volunteering programme and supporting our Consortium members to host, attend and facilitate events to connect audiences and nature.

Our 2022 events secured positive feedback from the press, partners and audiences, and provided an ideal 'stepping stone' to a full combined (live / digital) programme for our 20th anniversary in 2023 when we will explore themes around 'green and blue'.



Family Nature Party at Festival of Nature. Photo by Paul Blakemore.

Our flagship sector-facing programme, Communicate, expanded yet again, with events in January, before the traditional two day Autumn conference. Our main November event expanded to London for the first time, alongside an event in Bristol, a full two day online event and a series of specialist masterclasses. Overall, the editorial programme, co-created by the Natural History Consortium representatives on the conference committee, supported 809 delegates from 235 organisations (and a growing contingent of freelancers). Our largest event to date, with significant momentum for 2023 activities.



Communicate conference 2022 illustrated by Sam Church

Alongside our events programmes, we are exploring a book project and restructure of the conference archive to consolidate, celebrate, and share learning.



The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Headlines and Context



Innovation and testing in live spaces

We were pleased to win the contract for the first headline commission from Bristol City Council's City Centre and High Streets Recovery and Renewal programme. The funding provided an opportunity for a live public intervention in the city's retail centre. Our proposal sought to explore themes around urban tree cover through innovative means - working in partnership with artists and the charity's first major art commission in the public realm. Overstory brought together 25 organisations to deliver a nature based engagement programme in an urban setting.

The programme reached thousands of local people, with over 25% of the audience from ethnic minority backgrounds, to discuss trees in our cities and lives. Natural History Consortium partners co-wrote the commission pitch and worked directly with NHC staff and volunteers to deliver live engagement activities. We will be building on the learning with a follow-up live art programme - building on the themes of trees and woodlands - at Festival of Nature 2023 during our 20th anniversary celebrations.



Overstory artwork and engagement activities.
Photo by Paul Blakemore.

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Bath & North East Somerset Council

BBC



BRISTOL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Forestry England



NATURAL ENGLAND

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

University of BRISTOL

UWE Bristol



WOODLAND TRUST

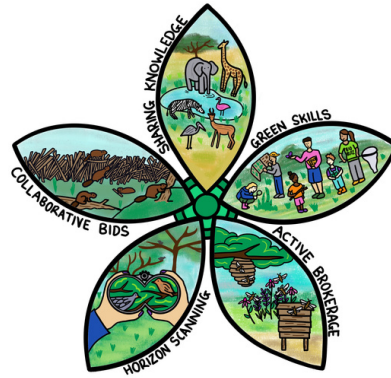
Headlines and Context



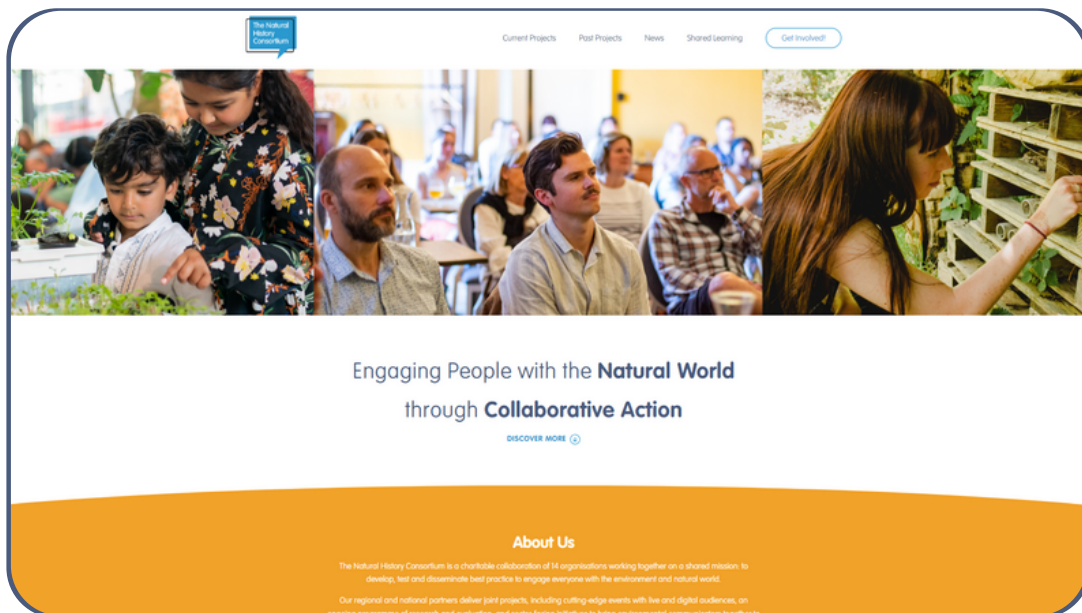
Participatory Research - learning together

Behind the scenes, NHC partners worked together on a six month participatory research exploratory programme, funded by University of Bath. The project included desk research by NHC, discussions at Steering Group meetings, and one-to-one discussions with Steering Group members. The programme started as a review of how higher education and other partners in the Consortium could work more closely together, but quickly became a larger exploration of new mechanisms and opportunities for all 14 partners to work together. The five pillars that emerged from the process are now being implemented into planning 2023 activities.

Illustration commissioned during the Participatory Research programme. Credit Hana Ayoob.



In April 2022 we launched a new website for the charity, and continued to build our relationships with public and sector audiences.



Natural History Consortium website new look 2022

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Public Programmes

Our public programmes bring partners together to deliver on Objective 1: To deliver entertaining and informative events and activities that inspire greater public interest, volunteering and action for nature.

City Nature Challenge

29th April - 2nd May 2022

Bristol & Bath City Region

1290

Recorded 1,290 different species, making 1st place in the UK leaderboard

7989

Recorded 7,989 observations, making 2nd place in the UK leaderboard

648

Ran 11 West of England hubs in parks and green spaces, engaging 648 people with nature recording

National

Supported 14 UK cities in using iNaturalist to make a total of 57,077 wildlife observations

57,077

Festival of Nature

10th - 18th June 2022

West of England and Online

76% of attendees said going to a FON event inspired them to take action for nature

76%

95 events took place including 25 NHC staff led and 70 partner led sessions

95

100+ delivery partners involved in this year's festival

100+

Green Social Prescribing

30%

30% of events in this year's festival focused on Green Social Prescribing (27 sessions)



The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Communicate

Our Communicate programmes bring partners together to deliver on Objective 3: To build, support and pilot effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and to help organisations learn from each other.

Beyond COP26: The Conversations

19th January 2022

This unique event brought together communication professionals from across the UK to discuss and share how the environmental communication community will translate international declarations into local action and national programmes following COP26.

61

61 organisations took part in 6 themed roundtable sessions
An [output report](#) highlighted the priorities for the sector in the year ahead

Communicate: Amplifying Awareness, Focusing Action

15-16th November 2022

This year's Communicate saw a return to live events and a packed two day digital programme. The main conference took place online with 617 delegates attending. In-person workshop days were held alongside the main conference for 74 (London) and 118 (Bristol) delegates. Expanding to London, the Consortium was able to reach new audiences and perspectives.

809

809 individuals attended Communicate conference 2022, including 17 freelancers and representatives from 235 organisations.

14

14 different sectors were represented across the event

90

The 2022 programme offered 53 unique sessions with 90 speakers and chairs



The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Research, Evaluation & Innovation

Each year the charity delivers a number of pilot activities and the evaluation of our programmes, as well as seeking research opportunities. A growing area of the charity's work, these initiatives bring partners together around Objective 2: To facilitate, develop, and disseminate novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience.

Bristol's Ecological Emergency Strategy

Water project meetings

- The Consortium held a series of Bristol-based water meetings to connect and map projects across the city region - two meetings in person and one online in October.
- 36 individuals took part representing 25 different organisations and/or groups.
- The meetings were linked to one of the key goals in the Bristol Ecological Emergency Strategy: for 100% of Bristol's waterways to have water quality that supports healthy wildlife by 2030.

Continuing Ecological Emergency Strategy communications

- In Spring 2022 we started producing a monthly newsletter with Ecological Emergency Strategy updates to stakeholders and interested parties.

Overstory - Broadmead's Canopy

19th - 30th August 2022

- Overstory consisted of 12 days of public artwork, including 7 days of on-the-ground engagement activities, highlighting the value of trees, forests and woodlands.
- 200,000 people passed under the Overstory artwork in Broadmead Shopping Quarter.
- 5000+ people engaged with activities on the high street and inside the shopping centre.
- 25 different organisations and groups were involved in the project.



The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Bath & North East Somerset Council

BBC



BRISTOL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Forestry England



NATURAL ENGLAND

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

University of BRISTOL

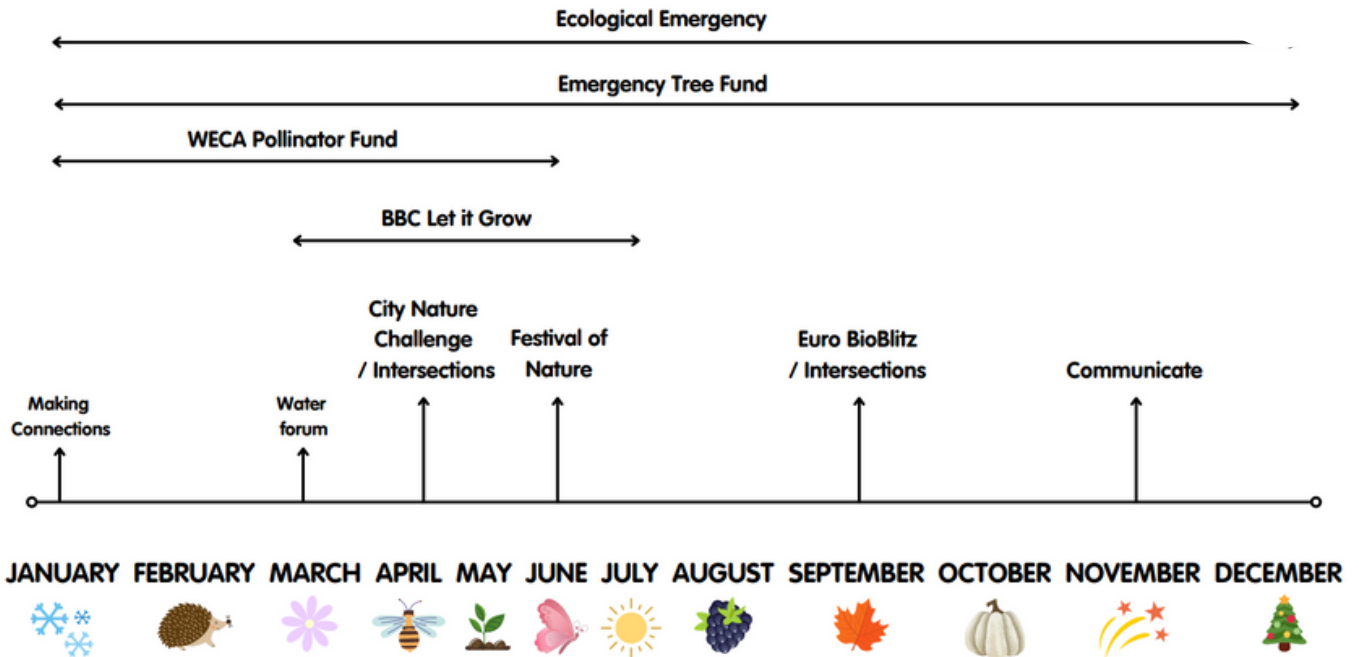
UWE Bristol University of the West of England



WOODLAND TRUST

Looking Ahead

Natural History Consortium 2023 project timeline



Draft partner plan for 2023 programmes

This diagram shows the range of projects under discussion at the end of 2022. While all events are still a work in progress, the outline provides a starting point for development between partners. A final programme for the year will be released internally and externally in January 2023.

Volunteer programme

In 2022, the Consortium and NHC team was joined by 50 volunteers, supporting the activities of a range of expanding public programmes. Many volunteers were involved in multiple events, developing their skills and valuable connections further.



Our experienced team supports the Consortium partnership and delivers our suite of programmes:



Savita Willmott (CEO), Stuart Payton (Senior Programmes Manager), Ellie Turner-Wallace (Senior Programmes Manager), Izzy Puletz (Communications Officer), Loz Emerson (Actions for Nature Officer), Abby Charlesworth (Programmes Officer)

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Reference and administrative details

Company number: 06472186

Charity number: 1123432

Registered office: 1 Little King Street
Bristol
BS1 4HW

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

Independent Examiners: Linden Accountants

Key management personnel

Trustees: Justin Morris – Bristol Zoo
Ian Barrett – Avon Wildlife Trust
Peter Ball – Independent Trustee
Martin Brasher – Independent Trustee
Rosa Robinson - Independent Trustee

Principal Staff: Savita Willmott (Chief Executive)

Company Secretary: Savita Willmott

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14th January 2008 and registered as a charity on 3 April 2008.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The Consortium has 14 partners, which work together in the following way:

Members:

Bristol Zoo Gardens and Avon Wildlife Trust are members of the organisation. In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, each member has the right to appoint one representative to the Board of Trustees. The members also each have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Associate members (Consortium members):

Bath & North East Somerset Council, BBC, Bristol City Council, Forestry England, Natural England, University of Bristol, University of the West of England, University of Bath, National Trust, Wildfowl Wetlands Trust, and The Woodland Trust are associate members (Consortium members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Associate members (Supporter members):

Defra are associate members (Supporter members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to send one representative to steering group meetings.

Organisational structure

The Consortium undertakes a range of activities that are managed in the following way:

Trustees – The Trustees undertake financial responsibility for the organisation in accordance with charity law. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis.

The Trustees are recruited and appointed from each of the Consortium's legal members, one from each, as well as independent Trustees as co-opted by The Board. Members of the board operate a "rolling chair" to lead each meeting.

Steering Group – The Steering Group undertake responsibility for all strategic planning and development for the organisation. The Steering Group meets every two months.

Risk Management

The steering group and the Trustees have considered the key risks facing the Consortium and have taken steps to mitigate them.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Company law requires the Trustee Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustee Board should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee Board is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

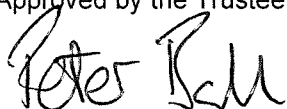
Members of the Trustee Board, who are directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 14.

In accordance with company law, as the charity's Trustees, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's Independent Examiner is unaware; and
- As the Trustees of the charity we have taken all steps that ought to have been taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustee Board on

and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Peter Ball (On behalf of Trustees)

.....
Date

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bristol Natural History Consortium for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Responsibility and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed: *Mike Grant*

Name: Michael Grant ACPA

Address: Linden Accountants Limited, Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9LB

Date: *13/09/23*

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2022 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum & Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). The company has taken advantage of the exemption to not have to prepare a strategic report in accordance with "The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013".

The charity's legal name remains Bristol Natural History Consortium, however the operating and public name for the partnership is The Natural History Consortium (NHC)

1. OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The mission statement and objectives are regularly reviewed on an annual basis by Consortium members.

1.1 Our mission statement:

The Natural History Consortium - Engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action

1.2 Our objectives:

The company's charitable objects are to advance the public understanding of wildlife and the natural environment and their conservation.

It achieves this by:

- Delivering entertaining and informative events and activities that inspire greater public interest, volunteering and action for nature
- Facilitating, developing, and disseminating novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience
- Building, supporting and piloting effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and help organisations learn from each other

1.3 Ensuring our work delivers our objectives

The Consortium's Trustees and Steering Group review progress of the partnership and activities through regular Trustees' meetings and bi-monthly Steering Group meetings.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how our activities will contribute to and deliver our mission statement.

1.4 Our activities

We carry out these objectives through a range of activities, guided by our mission statement:

- Festival of Nature – an annual public festival and associated public facing activities
- Communicate – an annual conference and an online community supported by research and resources.
- BioBlitz – a range of public activity and community of practice supporting public participation in biological recording
- Volunteers programme – supporting skills development and volunteer activity through our programmes
- Research and development – a strand of piloting, evaluation and learning activity using
- Governance and management.

1.5 How our activities deliver public benefit

The relationship of our activities to the target beneficiaries are described below. All of our charitable activities focus on environmental communication.

ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS	IMPACT
<p>FESTIVAL OF NATURE Bringing together content from across the partnership under a common framework for engagement, Festival of Nature is the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world delivering an exciting new programme across the West of England each year since 2003.</p>	<p>A cohesive, inspiring, engaging, ambitious programme of activity that delivers against seven strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner interest - Fundability - User experience - Impact (action for nature) - Inclusivity - Covid regulations - Innovation & shared learning 	<p>Audiences in the West of England are more aware of environmental issues, more connected with nature and empowered to take new, sustained, positive action for nature.</p>
<p>COMMUNICATE Started in 2004, Communicate is an annual environmental communication conference bringing together a diverse group of delegates each year to develop their skills, share best practice and debate latest issues in science communication, nature conservation and engaging people with the natural world.</p>	<p>Convening the UK environmental communications sector through an annual programme of innovative and engaging conference, workshops and conversations</p>	<p>Environmental communicators are better equipped with tools, knowledge and connections to influence positive change for nature</p>
<p>BIOBLITZ Since 2009 NHC has shown leadership in the development of BioBlitz as a format for public engagement in biological recording and citizen science, representing the West of England in the international City Nature Challenge since 2018. NHC represents Bristol & Bath City Region and spearheads UK participation in this global race for citizens to generate the most wildlife records data possible in 4 days.</p>	<p>A regional programme of activity promoting public participation in biological recording, piloting new innovative formats for participatory community science</p> <p>Convening and supporting national and international communities of practice around BioBlitz and associated formats to share learning, and foster collaboration</p> <p>Biological records data contributed at scale to local, national and international datasets</p>	<p>Participants feel better connected and more knowledgeable about nature on their doorsteps, and are empowered to take new, sustained, positive action for nature through community science.</p> <p>The biological recording and community science sector are better equipped with tools, knowledge and connections to support public participation in biological recording and community science</p> <p>Conservation and land management practice and research are better informed by biological records data.</p>
<p>VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME NHC runs an on-going, active volunteer programme designed to train and support students, those looking to develop skills, and those looking to make a change of career.</p>	<p>Cohorts of volunteers are trained and supported to take leadership roles in NHC public facing activities. Specific strands of volunteer training, advocacy and skills development are built into NHC programmes</p>	<p>Volunteers are upskilled and build experience in environmental communications and engagement practice</p> <p>Young volunteers and wildlife enthusiasts benefit from peer-to-peer learning and social cohesion</p>
<p>RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT Through our regular senior stakeholder meetings and frequent informal contact, we have a space for sharing learning and Challenges. Building on core programmes, we explore new ways to facilitate collaboration between Consortium members as well as external partners, to make things happen together.</p>	<p>A collaborative portfolio of funded projects that support our charitable objectives, provide opportunities to support delivery of partners individual priorities, build capacity and facilitate collaboration between partners</p>	<p>NHC reputation as a leading collaboration space and safe pair of hands for delivering against partner priorities</p> <p>New collaborations, and innovations are fostered and disseminated through the Consortium charitable structure and activities – contributing to research and best practice in environmental communications</p> <p>Building core capacity through funded activity, and consultancy.</p>
<p>GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>Financial, administrative, team management and policy responsibilities</p> <p>Regular meetings of the Trustees and Steering Group</p>	<p>Ensuring financial stability, compliance and best practice in charitable governance</p> <p>Ensuring effective and efficient investment of resources to meet charitable objectives</p>

3. Further notes to the accounts

Funds totalling £24,924 have been designated for 2023, they were received during 2022 for the staffing of the EuroBioBlits between January - March 2023.

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOME FROM					
Donations	3	70,000	2,000	72,000	78,625
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	4	40,284	9,425	49,709	32,546
Communicate Conference	4	20,541	-	20,541	22,678
Education and Engagement	4	196,005	4,420	200,426	79,576
<i>Other income</i>		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		326,831	15,845	342,676	213,425
EXPENDITURE ON:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	5	77,944	12,405	90,349	78,142
Communicate Conference	5	97,959	-	97,959	75,559
Education and Engagement	5	149,901	4,420	154,321	67,231
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	325,804	16,825	342,629	220,933
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		1,027	(980)	47	(7,508)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		71,519	980	72,499	80,007
Total funds carried forward		72,546	0	72,546	72,499

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above.

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible assets	8	5,921	3,777
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	9	80,894	79,206
Cash at bank and in hand		64,008	67,188
		144,901	146,395
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(78,277)	(77,672)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		66,625	68,722
TOTAL NET (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		72,546	72,499
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	13	0	980
Unrestricted funds	14	47,622	47,519
Designated funds	15	24,924	24,000
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		72,546	72,499

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue.

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by



(On behalf of Trustees)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Bristol Natural History Consortium meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) **Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The Trustees have considered the 12 month period from the date of the approval of the financial statements. The Trustees note that the position of the unrestricted reserves has improved each year since 31st December 2019. At the time of filing the Trustees are reviewing the reserves policy and treatment of unrestricted reserves as they make long term plans for the success and stability of the charity.

(c) **Income**

All income is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Intangible income is recognised as an incoming resource where the provider of the service has incurred a financial cost. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable, unless they specifically relate to a future period, in which case they are deferred.

(d) **Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Most expenditure is directly attributable to a specific activity and is allocated to that activity. However, the costs of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on core staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

• Festival of Nature	20%
• Communicate Conference	40%
• Education & Engagement	40%

(e) **Donated services and facilities**

Donated services & facilities are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received. This will be the price the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for a service or facility of equivalent utility to the charity.

(f) **Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held is included when receivable by the charity.

(g) **Funds accounting**

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each funds is included in the notes to the accounts.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) **Tangible fixed assets**

The cost of tangible fixed assets is written-off by equal annual instalments over their expected useful life as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years straight line
Website	4 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	4 years straight line

(i) **Pension costs**

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The employer contributions made by the charity are treated as an expense and disclosed in note 7 to the accounts.

(j) **Operating leases**

No leases at 31st December 2022

2 PRIOR PERIOD COMPARATIVES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOME FROM			
Donations	76,625	2,000	78,625
Other trading activities	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	26,816	5,730	32,546
Communicate Conference	22,678		22,678
Education and Engagement	48,575	31,001	79,576
Other income	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME	174,694	38,731	213,425
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	55,700	22,443	78,142
Communicate Conference	72,916	2,644	75,559
Education and Engagement	33,587	33,645	67,231
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	162,202	58,731	220,933
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	12,492	(20,000)	(7,508)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

3 DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Member subscriptions	70,000	-	70,000	70,000
<i>Donations:</i>				
In kind donations	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Company donations	-	-	-	6,625
Individual donations	-	-	-	-
	<hr/> 70,000	<hr/> 2,000	<hr/> 72,000	<hr/> 78,625

A summary of the in kind donated services is set out below:

	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Design costs	2,000	2,000
Use of exhibition space/site services (Festival of Nature)	-	-
Use of exhibition space (Communicate)	-	-
Marketing support	-	-
Event consumables	-	-
Storage space	-	-
	<hr/> 2,000	<hr/> 2,000

4 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Festival of Nature			-	-
Sponsorship	8,562	-	8,562	-
Sales	6,248	-	6,248	4,366
Grants	25,474	9,425	34,899	28,180
	<hr/> 40,284	<hr/> 9,425	<hr/> 49,709	<hr/> 32,546
Communicate Conference				
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Sales	20,541	-	20,541	9,628
Grants	-	-	-	13,050
	<hr/> 20,541	<hr/> -	<hr/> 20,541	<hr/> 22,678
Education & Engagement				
Sales	7,398		7,398	-
Education & Engagement	65,107		65,107	48,575
Euro Bioblitz	5,000	-	5,000	31,001
Canopy project	118,500	4,420	122,920	-
	<hr/> 196,005	<hr/> 4,420	<hr/> 200,426	<hr/> 79,576

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

5 TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £	Other Direct Costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Festival of Nature	62,780	27,569	90,349	76,642
Communicate Conference	60,102	37,857	97,959	75,559
Education & Engagement	88,255	66,066	154,321	68,731
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	211,138	131,492	342,629	220,934
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Event & project costs	37,013	5,471
Premises costs	29,418	19,205
Office costs	41,644	24,769
Legal & professional costs	6,567	13,828
Depreciation	2,654	1,388
Miscellaneous fees	-	-
VAT partial exemption adjustment	14,196	5,334
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	131,492	69,995
	<hr/>	<hr/>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Festival of Nature	77,944	12,405	90,349	78,142
Communicate Conference	97,959	-	97,959	75,559
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Education & Engagement</i>				
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>	5,000	-	5,000	31,001
Canopy project	37,805	4,420	42,225	-
<i>Education & Engagement</i>	107,096	-	107,096	36,230
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Sub-total</i>	149,901	4,420	154,321	67,231
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	325,804	16,825	342,629	220,934
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

6 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	2,654	1,388
Independent Examination	550	550
Accounting & Book-keeping services	5,793	5,400
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

7 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

Staff costs were as follows:	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	123,647	110,666
Employer's National Insurance	6,767	5,786
Employer's pensions	2,757	2,407
Freelance staff	62,284	27,743
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	195,455	146,602
	<hr/>	<hr/>

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more. The average number of employees during the year was 5 (2021 - 4).

The charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2021: £nil), neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2021: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2021: £nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £37,356 (2021: £30,980).

8 TANGIBLE ASSETS	<u>Website Development</u>	<u>Computer Equipment</u>	<u>Office Furniture</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£
COST				
At 1 January 2022	4,000	2,758	664	7,422
Additions	4,000	798	-	4,798
Disposals	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	8,000	3,556	664	12,220
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2022	1,000	1,981	664	3,645
Charge for the year	2,000	654	-	2,654
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	3,000	2,635	664	6,299
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2022	5,000	921	-	5,921
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2021	3,000	777	-	3,777
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

9 DEBTORS	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	80,181	62,851
Prepayments & accrued income	313	2,123
Taxation and social security	-	3,873
Other debtors	400	10,359
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	80,894	79,206
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The trade debtors include a credit of £10,224 (2021 : £15,224) in relation to the BBC. A credit was raised in 2018 and annual memberships for the BBC have been set against this. This will continue until the credit has been used up.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Sally Airey and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

17 RELATED PARTIES (Continued)

Natural England

Natural England is represented on the Steering Group by Kanta Mall and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5000 to BNHC in 2021

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

10 CREDITORS	2022	2021
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade creditors	821	1,988
Taxation and social security	4,928	3,795
Accruals	2,528	1,890
Deferred income	70,000	70,000
Other creditors	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	78,277	77,672
	<hr/>	<hr/>

11 DEFERRED INCOME

Deferred income comprises subscriptions and grants invoiced in advance.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance as at 1 January 2022	70,000	71,000
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(70,000)	(71,000)
Amount deferred in year	70,000	70,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance as at 31 December 2022	70,000	70,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

12 OPERATING LEASES

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

13 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2022</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	At 31 December <u>2022</u>
	£	£	£	£
<i>Bristol Festival of Nature Communicate</i>	980	11,425	(12,405)	-
	-	-	-	-
<i>Education & Engagement Parks Accelerator</i>	-	4,420	(4,420)	0
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>	-	-	-	-
	<u>980</u>	<u>15,845</u>	<u>(16,825)</u>	<u>0</u>

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Postcode Local Trust

This funding is in support City Nature Challenge.

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

This funding is in support of City Nature Challenge.

South Gloucestershire Council

This funding is in support of City Nature Challenge.

National Lottery

This funding is in support of covering core costs.

14 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2022</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2022</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	47,519	326,831	(325,804)	(924)	47,622

15 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2022</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2022</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	24,000	-	-	924	24,924

Designated funds consist of £24,924 of funds received for the staffing of the EuroBioBlitz between January - March 2023

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Designated funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	5,921	-	-	5,921
Cash at bank and in hand	64,008	0	-	64,008
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	2,617	-	-	2,617
	<u>72,546</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,546</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

17 RELATED PARTIES

Avon Wildlife Trust

Avon Wildlife Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Julie Doherty. Avon Wildlife Trust is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Bath & North East Somerset Council is represented on the Steering Group by Mark Minkley. Bath & North East Somerset Council is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

BBC

BBC is represented on the Steering Group by Stephanie Marshall. BBC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

Bristol City Council

Bristol City Council is represented on the Steering Group by Richard Ennion and Ray Barnett. BCC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

Bristol Zoo Gardens

Bristol Zoo Gardens is represented on the Steering Group by Simon Garrett. As a subscribing organisation, Bristol Zoo paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

Defra

Defra is represented on the Steering Group by Emily Ambrose and as a subscribing organisation paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

Forestry England

Forestry England is represented on the Steering Group by Naomi Fuller and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

National Trust

National Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Nerys Jones and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

Natural England

Natural England is represented on the Steering Group by Sunita Welch and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

University of West of England

The University of the West of England is represented on the Steering Group by Jackie Rogers and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Rosie Walker and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

University of Bristol

The University of Bristol is represented on the Steering Group by Rhys Charles and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

University of Bath

The University of Bath is represented on the Steering Group by Heather Featherstone and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2022.

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1123432

Accounts

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

(A company limited by guarantee)

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2021**

**Company registration number: 06472186
Registered charity number: 1123432**

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>Page</u>
Highlight report	3
Trustees notes	8
Independent Examiner's report	11
Statement of financial activities	15
Balance sheet	16
Notes to the financial statements	17

THE NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

Members Annual Summary 2021

The Natural History Consortium

2021 A Year Of Adaptation & Innovation

2021 has been a year characterised by Covid recovery, and the lead-up to COP26, with ongoing delays to COP15.

Organisations and society continue to rebuild and reprioritise, and the impact of human activity on the environment and the value of nature for our health and wellbeing has maintained a prominent place in public consciousness.

For NHC, 2021 was about consolidating our own Covid recovery, building on the successful adaptations made in 2020 and exploring new ways of working in partnership in a still unsettled landscape. We had core support from funders in 2020 which allowed us to invest additional strategic time in 2021, rebuilding a new understanding of our flagship programmes whilst piloting new format innovations and growing a productive development programme. We were also able to maintain financial stability throughout the year.

Based regionally in the West of England and nationally active, the Consortium is unique in bringing together organisations from across policy, academia, conservation and media within a shared charitable structure. The charity provides a vehicle for delivering shared projects, and a small and experienced core team facilitate collaboration between the organisations.

Senior stakeholder meetings were held 7 times in 2021, bringing member organisations together to create and direct the organisation's programmes for the year where members' priorities and agendas intersect. Having collaborated through the pandemic, in 2021 we welcomed Natural England back into the consortium partnership through the 'Connecting People and Nature' team.

2022 This Is Our Time

In the wake of COP26, urgency and impact at scale is a key theme for the environment going into 2022. Commitments have been made and ambitions have been declared, and the next challenge is converting this into swift, effective action. As activity in this area accelerates, 2022 promises some exciting opportunities to help shape the emerging response:

We have accelerated our collaborative innovation through the pandemic, supported and convened our communities of influence and swiftly built skills and experience of delivering remotely. We have cemented a strong position for the partnership to work towards continuing to deliver at scale and drive positive change in 2022.



Nature is high on the agenda - politically, but also socially as lockdown has had a lasting impact on our relationship to the outdoors



A wave of youth led social change continues to create an atmosphere of empowerment and individual action, whilst pressure on organisations and institutions to respond at scale intensifies



We are seeing increased recognition of the need to build a more equitable and inclusive environmental community, amplifying a diverse range of voices for nature



We have a strong, highly engaged partnership that is unique in its mix of sectors and local and national organisations



We are embedding our learning from this year into innovative, insights led prototypes for 2022 programmes

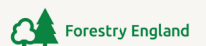


We have an excellent track record for delivery of highly complex, multi-stakeholder projects and associated brand recognition for our major programmes



Because of all of this, we are now well-placed to play a major part in the response to the climate and ecological emergencies "post-COP", including some exciting opportunities already in the pipeline.

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Innovation Of Our Core Programmes

2021 saw government restrictions ease, shifting responsibility on individuals and organisations to manage their own Covid-19 responses. In this shifting landscape, we made some significant strategic and structural changes to our major programmes, adapting to meet the evolving needs of partners and audiences, and innovating to drive and respond to new opportunities.

BioBlitz

In 2021 NHC continued to show leadership in the development of BioBlitz as a format for public engagement in biological recording and citizen science, representing the West of England in the 4th international City Nature Challenge. NHC represents Bristol & Bath City Region and spearheads UK participation in this global race for citizens to generate the most wildlife records data possible in 4 days.

City Nature Challenge

April 2021

We delivered a regional programme of remote and online activity as well as convening 80+ delegates for a themed 1-day conference, using this as a platform to launch national collaboration and share best practice.

>8,000 wildlife observations submitted from the region

4 co-created training films which had 4,600 views

6 online 'Nature Chat' events and 13 online training workshops

540% increase in iNaturalist activity in the UK

6,600 engagements with social media posts

Collaborated with **13** other city partnerships and **30** social media influencers to activate a national community of **3,840** digital volunteers generating **61,840+** national records (UK wide)

European BioBlitz

September 2021

As part of an international collaboration celebrating European Researchers Night, we delivered the world's first continental 48 hour BioBlitz, activating an international network through a shared, multilingual communications pack

8,270 digital volunteers in 43 countries

53,236 observations of 7,028 species

400% increase in iNaturalist activity across Europe

Festival Of Nature

Bringing together content from across the partnership under a common framework for engagement, Festival of Nature is the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world delivering an exciting new programme across the West of England each year since 2003.

Adapting Current Programmes

Festival Of Nature

June 2021

Investing heavily in collaborative strategic development, we restructured Festival of Nature to support an innovative, covid safe programme of activity through a new online hub, delivering 125+ pieces of content over 8-days of remote activity.

10 bookable live online events

19 podcast episodes

42 pre-recorded films

25 actions for nature

36 community content pieces

3,000 people engaged with content on Youtube and Facebook (8,000 engagements)

Piloting New Activity

Great Big Green Week

September 2021

Linking in with a one-off national campaign, we delivered a 10-day communications campaign promoting events across the West of England including the UK's first domestic Pesticide Amnesty.

46 events in the West of England

72 pesticide amnesty participants handed in 102 products

30 environmental and arts organisations convened as part of a networking collaboration with Thangham Debbonaire (MP)

Communicate

Started in 2004, Communicate is an annual environmental communication conference bringing together a diverse group of delegates each year to develop their skills, share best practice and debate latest issues in science communication, nature conservation and engaging people with the natural world.

Communicate: On the road to COP

September 2021

We supported the sector's preparations for COP26 and COP15 by convening the annual 2-day conference for themed conversations and workshops, delivered online, in advance of these major international discussions.

661 delegates registered

98 organisations represented

73% of delegates rated Excellent value

8 1/2 hours average time online per delegate

50 sessions featuring 100+ speakers

Communicate: Extras

June 2021 & January 2022

In addition to the annual 2-day event, we supported organisations working to tackle their own ecological emergency through a new one-day conference. We will also be delivering new content post-COP with a series of 6 curated conversations in January 2022.

218 delegates registered

11 sessions featuring 23 speakers

2 1/2 hrs average time online per delegate

Strengthening The Support Network

Convening Power

As organisations settled into new ways of working post lockdown and established new priorities in the build up to COP26, NHC sought to consolidate our core communities of practice and use the opportunity to support and convene these intersecting sectors by providing platforms for organisations to collaborate and share emerging learning through live programmes.



Expanding Our Collaborative Development Portfolio

Building on our core programmes, we found new ways to facilitate collaboration between Consortium members as well as external partners, to make things happen together. These projects provided opportunities to support delivery of partners individual priorities, build capacity and facilitate collaboration between partners.

Making Connections

Exploring and piloting new ways to invite different 'Voices for Nature' into our programmes in partnership with Black Seeds Network

Future Parks

Developing our learning and evaluation portfolio and working closely on the engagement aspects of this major programme involving several NHC partners

FUTURES Naturegram

Exploring new formats for partnering with social media influencers to cocreate content as part of major University partnership project

Pesticide Amnesty

Creating new ways for Bristol residents to take action for nature, delivering the UK's first domestic pesticide amnesty in collaboration with University of Bristol, Bristol City Council and Bristol Waste

Bristol Ecological Emergency

Coordinating Bristol's Ecological Emergency implementation, involving NHC partners and taking a leading role in activity around pesticides and wildlife recording

Hyperlocal To Global Connections

With the revolution in digital programming comes freedom from geographic restrictions, however we have been conscious that many of our most successful engagement activities have been built around a sense of connection to place and relevance at a very local scale. In 2021 we have piloted new ways of connecting local lived experiences with regional, national and international context.

Working intimately with grassroots community groups in East Bristol, piloting new ways of making connections and amplifying more diverse voices

Connecting individual action in local neighbourhoods with regional and national policy and conservation context through Bristol Ecological Emergency activities and City Nature Challenge UK collaboration

Supporting and building international community science collaboration across Europe through the world's first continental BioBlitz

Showcasing international voices at Communicate including a live conversation between speakers in Kenya, India, the Philippines and the UK

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Opportunities In The Pipeline

Building on the innovation and consolidation of our networks in 2020 and 2021, the partnership is poised to activate a series of opportunities already in the pipeline and we look forward to working with your teams to realise the potential for real impact

Co-learning And Shared Solutions

Growing our professional community - Communicate attendance continues to reach new communities of practice by reducing barriers to attendance. By positioning our convening activities around COP26 - we are in a great position to support the sector's response to COP with this growing community, starting with our planned January 2022 activity.

Building our consultancy and collaboration portfolio - By expanding our consultancy and development programme through the pandemic, NHC has further cemented our reputation as a leading collaboration space and safe pair of hands for delivering against partner priorities. We are already seeing a surge of requests and opportunities for collaboration for 2022 coming through as our networks look ahead.

New gateway for research collaboration - Through our regular senior stakeholder meetings and frequent informal contact, we have a space for sharing learning and challenges as we all adapt to a Covid influenced landscape post COP26. This includes development of a "Gateway" for brokering collaboration between researchers and practitioners across the consortium.

Convening, Leading And Influencing

Ecological Emergency Implementation - we will be supporting organisations across the city through the "One City" approach and seeking opportunities to share our approaches with cities across the UK.

EuroBioBlitz and City Nature Challenge - We continue to hold a leadership position because of ongoing innovation between NHC partners and have already started conversations with UK organisations about further upscaling ambitions around national collaboration and international leadership.

Actions For Nature - Our framework for individual actions is gaining traction and is ready for further development as we consolidate our learning and explore new ways to apply the framework drive positive action through innovative remote and digital volunteering formats.

Driving Innovation And Adaptation

Evolving mixed format engagement models - Festival of Nature 2022 will consolidate the learning from major strategic development and piloting of new hybrid engagement formats through 2021 to create a programme that is resilient and adaptable to changes whilst re-establishing face-to-face activities under a new, more inclusive programme model.

Community science innovation - Wildlife data is increasingly important nationally under the new Green Recovery agenda, and we have a place to play exploring the role of publics in it alongside partnerships developed through our BioBlitz programme. Locally we have an established role in the development of a Wildlife Index for the region and opportunities to activate community science around the Ecological Emergency.

Amplifying diverse voices for nature - Building on new collaborations with Black Seeds Network in 2021, we are seeking funding to establish new models of working with community groups, coming together to celebrate and empower people's connections with nature in more equitable, inclusive and diverse ways.



What Would We Do Without You?

The strength of The Consortium comes from the unique community of partners around the table. Funders, stakeholders and audiences invest their time and resources into the collaboration through our shared programmes because they recognise the value of collaboration. Every member brings different perspectives, experience and skills to the partnership and your membership is valued far beyond the financial input. For

The Consortium to succeed in co-creating impactful, innovative programmes into 2022 we need your organisation at the table.

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



Looking Ahead: Public Programmes 2022

In 2022, our public facing programmes will build on learning from 2 years of remote and digital engagement to empower audiences to take action for nature through a ground-breaking, collaborative hybrid programme of digital experiences, outdoor activities and volunteering opportunities. We will continue to develop remote and digital participation whilst bringing back elements of face-to-face activity in a responsible way.

As environmental issues continue to dominate the headlines, Festival of Nature will bring global issues into local focus, helping people realise and activate their agency for positive change, protecting and creating more space for nature.

NHC Vision:

'A society that comes together to value, connect with and safeguard nature'

NHC Mission:

'Engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action'

Festival Of Nature Mission Statement



will deliver a cohesive, inspiring, engaging, ambitious programme of activity...

for newly aware, partially engaged and highly active people in the West of England...

so that they are empowered to take new, sustained, positive action for nature.

Cocreated by the 14 partners of the Natural History Consortium alongside invited external partners, the programme will deliver against seven strategic priorities endorsed by the partnership:



Partner Interest

The programme has direct involvement from all NHC partners



Fundability

The programme is financially viable through appropriate funding sources



User Experience

The programme uses design principles to create activities that are enjoyable, and people want to participate in



Impact

The programme generates positive individual action for nature through our 'Actions For Nature' framework



Inclusivity

The programme addresses unconscious biases and barriers to engagement for people with intersectional identities



COVID Restrictions

The programme is designed to respond to changes in government guidance on minimising the spread of coronavirus



Innovation & Shared Learning

The programme pilots new formats and ways of working, sharing learning widely through effective monitoring and evaluation

Key Activity Delivery Periods 2022

City Nature Challenge:

29th April – 2nd May

City Nature Challenge is an epic, global citizen science project to collect information about our local wildlife. In 2021 fourteen UK cities collaborated with >400 cities across the world to find and record as much wildlife as possible – in 2022 the Festival of Nature will once again lead Bristol and Bath City Region's efforts, whilst spearheading an even more ambitious UK collaboration.

Festival of Nature:

10th June – 18th June

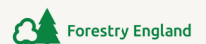
Festival of Nature, the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world, will return to the South West for the 18th year. Using what we have learned through successfully pivoting programmes during 2021, this project will be pioneering new frontiers for action-led, multi-platform engagement in the evolving post lockdown, post COP landscape.

European Researchers Night:

30th September – 1st October

Festival of Nature is engaged in collaborative bids to support our academic partners to deliver engagement activities across the South West as part of European Researchers Night and collaborate with Universities across Europe to build on our success delivering the world's first 48-hour continental BioBlitz in 2020.

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action

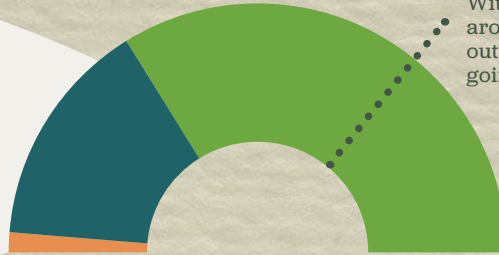


Business Development

The Natural History Consortium provide an excellent return on investment for our partners, leveraging the vast majority of our funding from external sources and using the convening power of our networks to give the consortium the mandate to lead and spearhead innovation across the sector.

Leveraged Funds

- The subscriptions and commitment of our Consortium partners allows us to leverage funds for joint impact, and bring others to the table
- With ongoing uncertainty around Covid-19 restrictions and impacts on funding sources, we set out a conservative budget going into 2021. With the success of this year's programmes we exceeded our target by 22%.



£185.7k

With ongoing uncertainty around Covid-19 we set out a conservative budget going into 2021

£226.9k

BUT we exceeded our plans

- Your organisation's contribution (2.2%)
- NHC partners contribution (28.65%)
- Leveraged funds for joint programmes (69.15%)

Making The Case

Previously we have built our programmes around a mixed income model, using the initial investment of consortium partners to leverage a combination of sponsorship, grants and earned income.

In 2020 NHC were able to invest in substantial strategic development to build new income streams and generate significant support to maintain stability in 2021. Off the back of this new strategy, we made a conscious, temporary shift away from the current instability of the event sponsorship market, successfully making the case to a number of grant funding sources from funders who recognise the value of this unique collaboration, and the innovations being developed through our programmes. We also identified and established new earned income streams through consultancy activities that support our charitable aims and objectives.

Developing Our Team

Our experienced staff team supports the Consortium partnership and delivers our suite of programmes:

Savita Willmott (CEO), Matt Postles (Deputy CEO), Stuart Payton (Programmes Officer), Ellie Turner-Wallace (Programmes Officer)



The team has continued to develop ways of working flexibly between our new office space in central Bristol and remote collaboration, whilst NHC committees have been held online since March 2020



By bringing in additional skills and capacity from external, remote working, contractors, the team established a powerful and adaptive model for delivering scalable activity and responding quickly to new opportunities

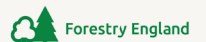


The team has consolidated expertise in online and remote activity delivery developed in 2020 to support partners in 2021 with shared learning and capacity building as most organisations continue to adapt



By pioneering hybrid and fully digital delivery formats the team is now primed to consolidate that experience and activate these new skills to deliver a cutting-edge, reimagined programme of activity for 2022

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 14 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Reference and administrative details

Company number: 06472186

Charity number: 1123432

Registered office: 1 Little King Street
Bristol
BS1 4HW

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank
Kings Valley
Yew Street
Stockport
SK4 2JY

Independent Examiners: Linden Accountants

Key management personnel

Trustees: Justin Morris – Bristol Zoo
Ian Barrett – Avon Wildlife Trust
Peter Ball – Independent Trustee
Martin Brasher – Independent Trustee
Rosa Robinson - Independent Trustee

Principal Staff: Savita Willmott (Chief Executive)

Company Secretary: Savita Willmott

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14th January 2008 and registered as a charity on 3 April 2008.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The Consortium has 14 partners, which work together in the following way:

Members:

Bristol Zoo Gardens and Avon Wildlife Trust are members of the organisation. In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, each member has the right to appoint one representative to the Board of Trustees. The members also each have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Associate members (Consortium members):

Bath & North East Somerset Council, BBC, Bristol City Council, Forestry England, Natural England, University of Bristol, University of the West of England, University of Bath, National Trust, Wildfowl Wetlands Trust, and The Woodland Trust are associate members (Consortium members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Associate members (Supporter members):

Defra are associate members (Supporter members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to send one representative to steering group meetings.

Organisational structure

The Consortium undertakes a range of activities that are managed in the following way:

Trustees – The Trustees undertake financial responsibility for the organisation in accordance with charity law. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis.

The Trustees are recruited and appointed from each of the Consortium's legal members, one from each, as well as independent Trustees as co-opted by The Board. Members of the board operate a "rolling chair" to lead each meeting.

Steering Group – The Steering Group undertake responsibility for all strategic planning and development for the organisation. The Steering Group meets every two months.

Risk Management

The steering group and the Trustees have considered the key risks facing the Consortium and have taken steps to mitigate them.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Company law requires the Trustee Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustee Board should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee Board is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Members of the Trustee Board, who are directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 14.

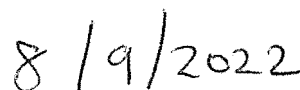
In accordance with company law, as the charity's Trustees, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's Independent Examiner is unaware; and
- As the Trustees of the charity we have taken all steps that ought to have been taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustee Board on _____ and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Peter Ball (On behalf of Trustees)



.....
Date

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bristol Natural History Consortium for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Responsibility and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed: 

Name: David Baptiste ACPA

Address: Linden Accountants Limited, Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9LB

Date: 20th September 2022

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2021 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum & Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). The company has taken advantage of the exemption to not have to prepare a strategic report in accordance with "The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013".

The charity's legal name remains Bristol Natural History Consortium, however the operating and public name for the partnership is The Natural History Consortium (NHC)

1. OUR PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES

The mission statement and objectives are regularly reviewed on an annual basis by Consortium members.

1.1 Our mission statement:

The Natural History Consortium - Engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action

1.2 Our objectives:

The company's charitable objects are to advance the public understanding of wildlife and the natural environment and their conservation.

It achieves this by:

- Delivering entertaining and informative events and activities that inspire greater public interest, volunteering and action for nature
- Facilitating, developing, and disseminating novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience
- Building, supporting and piloting effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and help organisations learn from each other

1.3 Ensuring our work delivers our objectives

The Consortium's Trustees and Steering Group review progress of the partnership and activities through regular Trustees' meetings and bi-monthly Steering Group meetings.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how our activities will contribute to and deliver our mission statement.

1.4 Our activities

We carry out these objectives through a range of activities, guided by our mission statement:

- Festival of Nature – an annual public festival and associated public facing activities
- Communicate – an annual conference and an online community supported by research and resources.
- BioBlitz – a range of public activity and community of practice supporting public participation in biological recording
- Volunteers programme – supporting skills development and volunteer activity through our programmes
- Research and development – a strand of piloting, evaluation and learning activity using
- Governance and management.

1.5 How our activities deliver public benefit

The relationship of our activities to the target beneficiaries are described below. All of our charitable activities focus on environmental communication.

Covid-19 impact on 2021 activities

NHC's activities continued to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions in place through Spring and early summer 2021. Elements of usual programming, such as large-scale live events during Festival of Nature, City Nature Challenge and Communicate were adapted to a digital setting and/or remote participation.

ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS	IMPACT
<p>FESTIVAL OF NATURE Bringing together content from across the partnership under a common framework for engagement, Festival of Nature is the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world delivering an exciting new programme across the West of England each year since 2003.</p>	<p>A cohesive, inspiring, engaging, ambitious programme of activity that delivers against seven strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner interest - Fundability - User experience - Impact (action for nature) - Inclusivity - Covid regulations - Innovation & shared learning 	<p>Audiences in the West of England are more aware of environmental issues, more connected with nature and empowered to take new, sustained, positive action for nature.</p>
<p>COMMUNICATE Started in 2004, Communicate is an annual environmental communication conference bringing together a diverse group of delegates each year to develop their skills, share best practice and debate latest issues in science communication, nature conservation and engaging people with the natural world.</p>	<p>Convening the UK environmental communications sector through an annual programme of innovative and engaging conference, workshops and conversations</p>	<p>Environmental communicators are better equipped with tools, knowledge and connections to influence positive change for nature</p>
<p>BIOBLITZ Since 2009 NHC has shown leadership in the development of BioBlitz as a format for public engagement in biological recording and citizen science, representing the West of England in the international City Nature Challenge since 2018. NHC represents Bristol & Bath City Region and spearheads UK participation in this global race for citizens to generate the most wildlife records data possible in 4 days.</p>	<p>A regional programme of activity promoting public participation in biological recording, piloting new innovative formats for participatory community science</p> <p>Convening and supporting national and international communities of practice around BioBlitz and associated formats to share learning, and foster collaboration</p> <p>Biological records data contributed at scale to local, national and international datasets</p>	<p>Participants feel better connected and more knowledgeable about nature on their doorsteps, and are empowered to take new, sustained, positive action for nature through community science.</p> <p>The biological recording and community science sector are better equipped with tools, knowledge and connections to support public participation in biological recording and community science</p> <p>Conservation and land management practice and research are better informed by biological records data.</p>
<p>VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME NHC runs an on-going, active volunteer programme designed to train and support students, those looking to develop skills, and those looking to make a change of career.</p>	<p>Cohorts of volunteers are trained and supported to take leadership roles in NHC public facing activities. Specific strands of volunteer training, advocacy and skills development are built into NHC programmes</p> <p>In 2014 NHC launched Bristol Nature Network as a forum for young volunteers and nature enthusiasts in the city and continues to support the independent committee</p>	<p>Volunteers are upskilled and build experience in environmental communications and engagement practice</p> <p>Young volunteers and wildlife enthusiasts benefit from peer-to-peer learning and social cohesion</p> <p>NHC partners and the wider sector benefit from a pool of year round, engaged, upskilled volunteer talent in the West of England</p>
<p>RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT Through our regular senior stakeholder meetings and frequent informal contact, we have a space for sharing learning and Challenges. Building on core programmes, we explore new ways to facilitate collaboration between Consortium members as well as external partners, to make things happen together.</p>	<p>A collaborative portfolio of funded projects that support our charitable objectives, provide opportunities to support delivery of partners individual priorities, build capacity and facilitate collaboration between partners</p>	<p>NHC reputation as a leading collaboration space and safe pair of hands for delivering against partner priorities</p> <p>New collaborations, and innovations are fostered and disseminated through the Consortium charitable structure and activities – contributing to research and best practice in environmental communications</p> <p>Building core capacity through funded activity, and consultancy.</p>
<p>GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>Financial, administrative, team management and policy responsibilities</p> <p>Regular meetings of the Trustees and Steering Group</p>	<p>Ensuring financial stability, compliance and best practice in charitable governance</p> <p>Ensuring effective and efficient investment of resources to meet charitable objectives</p>

2. Our future plans

Building on the innovation and consolidation of our networks in 2020 and 2021, the partnership is poised to activate a series of opportunities already in the pipeline for 2022. These are outlined on pages 4-5 of the attached Members Summary Report.

2.1. Programmes

FESTIVAL OF NATURE will return in June 2022 with a mixed format of digital and hybrid activity alongside a partial return to face-to-face engagement. Proposals to build on a successful collaborative programme in September around European Researchers Night and Great Big Green Week are also in progress.

COMMUNICATE will start in January 2022 with a newly created 'The Conversations' format post-COP26 with the 2-day annual conference returning in November 2022

BIOBLITZ will build on learning as NHC leads Bristol & Bath participation and spearheads national collaboration in the 5th international City Nature Challenge in April 2022. There are also plans for EuroBioBlitz to return in September 2022 pending grant funding.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME will create new opportunities through evolving formats for digital volunteering regionally and nationally as plans for the Festival of Nature and City Nature Challenge develop

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME will continue expansion of our consultancy and collaboration portfolio as we continue our collaborations around Future Parks, Ecological Emergency and community engagement, as well as development of a new "Gateway" for brokering collaboration between researchers and practitioners across the consortium.

2.2. Website

A major project for 2021 has been commissioning and designing a series of microsites for individual programmes, enhancing the online user experience for our different audiences and supporting the strategic communications aims of our major workstreams. This work will continue into 2022 with a new umbrella website for the charity that sits alongside the microsites.

3. Further notes to the accounts

Funds totalling £24,000 have been designated for use in 2021. This is comprised of £7500.00 for staffing costs for the Parks Accelerator project, and £16,500.00 for staffing and programme costs for City Nature Challenge and Festival of Nature 2021.

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
INCOME FROM					
Donations	3	76,625	2,000	78,625	68,417
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	4	26,816	5,730	32,546	58,080
Communicate Conference	4	22,678	-	22,678	37,343
Education and Engagement	4	48,575	31,001	79,576	57,367
<i>Other income</i>		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		174,694	38,731	213,425	221,207
EXPENDITURE ON:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	5	55,700	22,443	78,142	62,184
Communicate Conference	5	72,916	2,644	75,559	62,186
Education and Engagement	5	33,587	33,645	67,231	48,734
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	162,202	58,731	220,933	173,104
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		12,492	(20,000)	(7,508)	48,103
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		59,027	20,980	80,007	31,904
Total funds carried forward		71,519	980	72,499	80,007

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above.

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible assets	8	3,777	-
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	9	79,206	62,993
Cash at bank and in hand		67,188	100,754
		146,395	163,747
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(77,672)	(83,740)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		68,722	80,007
TOTAL NET (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		72,499	80,007
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	13	980	20,980
Unrestricted funds	14	47,519	35,027
Designated funds	15	24,000	24,000
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		72,499	80,007

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

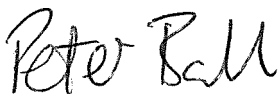
- (i) ensuring that the company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue.

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by



.....
(On behalf of Trustees)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Bristol Natural History Consortium meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) **Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The Trustees have considered the 12 month period from the date of the approval of the financial statements. The Trustees note that the position of the unrestricted reserves has improved each year since 31st December 2019. At the time of filing the Trustees are reviewing the reserves policy and treatment of unrestricted reserves as they make long term plans for the success and stability of the charity.

(c) **Income**

All income is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Intangible income is recognised as an incoming resource where the provider of the service has incurred a financial cost. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable, unless they specifically relate to a future period, in which case they are deferred.

(d) **Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Most expenditure is directly attributable to a specific activity and is allocated to that activity. However, the costs of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on core staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

• Festival of Nature	20%
• Communicate Conference	40%
• Education & Engagement	40%

(e) **Donated services and facilities**

Donated services & facilities are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received. This will be the price the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for a service or facility of equivalent utility to the charity.

(f) **Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held is included when receivable by the charity.

(g) **Funds accounting**

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each funds is included in the notes to the accounts.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) **Tangible fixed assets**

The cost of tangible fixed assets is written-off by equal annual instalments over their expected useful life as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years straight line
Website	4 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	4 years straight line

(i) **Pension costs**

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The employer contributions made by the charity are treated as an expense and disclosed in note 7 to the accounts.

(j) **Operating leases**

No leases at 31st December 2021

2 PRIOR PERIOD COMPARATIVES

	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u> £	Restricted <u>Funds</u> £	Total Funds <u>2020</u> £
INCOME FROM			
Donations	66,517	1,900	68,417
Other trading activities	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	37,310	20,770	58,080
Communicate Conference	32,963	4,380	37,343
Education and Engagement	52,987	4,380	57,367
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME	189,777	31,430	221,207
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	55,206	6,977	62,184
Communicate Conference	60,449	1,736	62,186
Education and Engagement	46,998	1,736	48,734
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	162,653	10,449	173,104
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	27,123	20,980	48,103
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

3 DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Member subscriptions	70,000	-	70,000	65,000
<i>Donations:</i>				
In kind donations	-	2,000	2,000	1,900
Company donations	6,625	-	6,625	1,517
Individual donations	-	-	-	-
	76,625	2,000	78,625	68,417
	76,625	2,000	78,625	68,417

A summary of the in kind donated services is set out below:

	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Design costs	2,000	1,000
Use of exhibition space/site services (Festival of Nature)	-	-
Use of exhibition space (Communicate)	-	-
Marketing support	-	-
Event consumables	-	200
Storage space	-	700
	2,000	1,900
	2,000	1,900

4 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Festival of Nature			-	
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Sales	4,366	-	4,366	7,531
Grants	22,450	5,730	28,180	50,549
	26,816	5,730	32,546	58,080
	26,816	5,730	32,546	58,080
Communicate Conference				
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Sales	9,628	-	9,628	16,134
Grants	13,050	-	13,050	21,209
	22,678	-	22,678	37,343
	22,678	-	22,678	37,343
Education & Engagement				
<i>Parks Foundation</i>			-	-
<i>Parks Accelerator</i>	48,575	-	48,575	57,367
<i>Euro Bioblitz</i>	-	31,001	31,001	-
Grants-Parks Foundation	-	-	-	0
	48,575	31,001	79,576	57,367
	48,575	31,001	79,576	57,367
Education & Engagement (Total)				

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

5 TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	<u>Staff Costs</u> £	<u>Other Direct Costs</u> £	<u>Total 2021</u> £	<u>Total 2020</u> £
Festival of Nature	55,209	21,433	76,642	62,184
Communicate Conference	48,240	27,320	75,559	62,186
Education & Engagement	47,489	21,242	68,731	48,734
	<hr/> 150,938	<hr/> 69,995	<hr/> 220,934	<hr/> 173,104

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	<u>Total 2021</u> £	<u>Total 2020</u> £
Event & project costs	5,471	2,769
Premises costs	19,205	26,851
Office costs	24,769	8,922
Legal & professional costs	13,828	8,524
Depreciation	1,388	-
Miscellaneous fees	-	17,353
VAT partial exemption adjustment	5,334	-
	<hr/> 69,995	<hr/> 64,419

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted Funds</u> £	<u>Total Funds 2021</u> £	<u>Total Funds 2020</u> £
Festival of Nature	55,700	22,443	78,142	62,184
Communicate Conference	72,916	2,644	75,559	62,186
Education & Engagement				
BioBlitz	-	-	-	-
National Bioblitz	-	-	-	-
WENP	-	-	-	-
Bristol Nature Network	-	-	-	-
Euro Bioblitz	-	31,001	31,001	-
Places Where People Live	-	-	-	-
Ecological Emergency	-	-	-	-
Parks Foundation	-	-	-	-
Parks Accelerator	33,587	2,644	36,230	48,734
	<hr/> 33,587	<hr/> 33,645	<hr/> 67,231	<hr/> 48,734
<i>Sub-total</i>				
	<hr/> 162,202	<hr/> 58,731	<hr/> 220,934	<hr/> 173,104

6 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	1,388	-
Independent Examination	550	550
Accounting & Book-keeping services	5,400	3,845
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

7 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

Staff costs were as follows:	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	110,666	90,399
Employer's National Insurance	5,786	3,857
Employer's pensions	2,407	2,066
Freelance staff	27,743	12,363
	146,602	108,684

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more. The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2020 - 4).

The charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2020: £nil), neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2020: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: £nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £30,980 (2020: £21,097).

8 TANGIBLE ASSETS

	<u>Website Development</u>	<u>Computer Equipment</u>	<u>Office Furniture</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£
COST				
At 1 January 2021	-	1,593	664	2,257
Additions	4,000	1,165	-	5,165
Disposals	-	-	-	-
	4,000	2,758	664	7,422
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2021	-	1,593	664	2,257
Charge for the year	1,000	388	-	1,388
	1,000	1,981	664	3,645
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2021	3,000	777	-	3,777
At 31 December 2020	-	-	-	-

9 DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	62,851	48,956
Prepayments & accrued income	2,123	2,466
Taxation and social security	3,873	7,721
Other debtors	10,359	3,850
	79,206	62,993

The trade debtors include a credit of £15,224 (2020 : £20,224) in relation to the BBC. A credit was raised in 2018 and annual memberships for the BBC have been set against this. This will continue until the credit has been used up.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

10 CREDITORS	2021	2020
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade creditors	1,988	8,481
Taxation and social security	3,795	2,268
Accruals	1,890	1,800
Deferred income	70,000	71,000
Other creditors	-	190
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	77,672	83,740
	<hr/>	<hr/>

11 DEFERRED INCOME

Deferred income comprises subscriptions and grants invoiced in advance.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Balance as at 1 January 2021	71,000	65,000
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(71,000)	(65,000)
Amount deferred in year	70,000	71,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance as at 31 December 2021	70,000	71,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

12 OPERATING LEASES

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	-	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

13 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2021</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	At 31 December <u>2021</u>
	£	£	£	£
<i>Bristol Festival of Nature</i>	15,693	7,730	(22,443)	980
<i>Communicate</i>	2,644	-	(2,644)	-
<i>Education & Engagement</i>				
Parks Accelerator	2,644	-	(2,644)	-
Euro Bioblitz	-	31,001	(31,001)	-
	<u>20,980</u>	<u>38,731</u>	<u>(58,731)</u>	<u>980</u>

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Postcode Local Trust

This funding is in support City Nature Challenge.

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

This funding is in support of City Nature Challenge.

South Gloucestershire Council

This funding is in support of City Nature Challenge.

National Lottery

This funding is in support of covering core costs.

14 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2021</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2021</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	35,027	174,694	(162,202)	-	47,519

15 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2021</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2021</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	24,000	-	-	-	24,000

Designated funds consist of £7,500 of funds received from Bristol City Council for the staffing of the Future Parks Accelerator projects, to finalise work on this project and £16,500 towards costs for our public facing programmes, City Nature Challenge and Festival of Nature.

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Designated funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	3,777	-	-	3,777
Cash at bank and in hand	66,208	980	-	67,188
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	1,534	-	-	1,534
	<u>71,519</u>	<u>980</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,499</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

17 RELATED PARTIES

Avon Wildlife Trust

Avon Wildlife Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Lisa Jones. Avon Wildlife Trust is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Bath & North East Somerset Council is represented on the Steering Group by Mark Minkley. Bath & North East Somerset Council is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

BBC

BBC is represented on the Steering Group by Stephanie Marshall. BBC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

Bristol City Council

Bristol City Council is represented on the Steering Group by Richard Ennion and Ray Barnett. BCC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

Bristol Zoo Gardens

Bristol Zoo Gardens is represented on the Steering Group by Simon Garrett. As a subscribing organisation, Bristol Zoo paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

Defra

Defra is represented on the Steering Group by Claire Holland and as a subscribing organisation paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

Forestry England

Forestry England is represented on the Steering Group by Naomi Fuller and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

National Trust

National Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Nerys Jones and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

University of West of England

The University of the West of England is represented on the Steering Group by Jackie Rogers and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Rosie Walker and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

University of Bristol

The University of Bristol is represented on the Steering Group by Rhys Charles and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

University of Bath

The University of Bath is represented on the Steering Group by Heather Featherstone and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Mark Simpson and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2021.

Natural England

Natural England is represented on the Steering Group by Kanta Mall and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5000 to BNHC in 2021

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1123432

Accounts

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

(A company limited by guarantee)

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Company registration number: 06472186
Registered charity number: 1123432**

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

CONTENTS

Page

Highlight report

1

Trustees' report

4

Independent Examiner's report

6

Statement of financial activities

9

Balance sheet

10

Notes to the financial statements

12

2020

An Unexpected Year

2020 was flagged as a highly consequential year for the environment with major decisions around national and international policy much anticipated. With the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting lockdowns, the impact of 2020 for the environment was brought much closer to home as daily lives were interrupted and put on hold. As roads fell silent, pollution dropped and wildlife reclaimed the streets, the impact of human activity on the environment was brought into stark focus whilst the value of nature for our health and wellbeing leapt to the forefront of public consciousness.

Based regionally in the West of England and nationally active, the Consortium is unique in bringing together organisations from across policy, academia, conservation and media within a shared charitable structure. The charity provides a vehicle for delivering shared projects, and a small and experienced core team facilitate collaboration between the organisations.

A lot has changed since our last annual report 12 months ago, and in this demanding year the partnership has shown extraordinary resilience and ambition to not only survive, but thrive growing our reach and driving innovation as we work together to engage people with the natural world. By pivoting quickly and supporting each other through two national lockdowns the partnership continues to convene, reflect and evolve alongside the environmental communications sector as it resets, rebuilds and reimagines itself for this new landscape.

2021

This Is Our Time

After the challenges of 2020 there is a lot of expectation for 2021 to bring about positive change. For the last couple of years, we have seen the spotlight land on individual environmental issues and 2021 promises great opportunities to rebuild and help shape the emerging normality.

We have accelerated our collaborative innovation through the pandemic, supported and convened our communities of influence and swiftly built skills and experience of delivering through lockdown, cementing a strong position for the partnership to drive positive change in 2021.



Nature is high on the agenda politically, and socially as lockdown has changed our relationship to the outdoors



A wave of youth led social change has created an atmosphere of empowerment and individual action



Postponed from 2020, COP26, The Environment Bill, declarations of Ecological Emergencies and other key political 'moments' in 2021 will sharpen focus on environmental decision making



We have a strong, highly engaged partnership that is unique in its mix of sectors and local and national organisations



We are embedding our learning from this year into prototypes for 2021 programmes



We have an excellent track record for delivery of highly complex, multi-stakeholder projects and associated brand recognition for our major programmes



We are now well-placed to play a major part in creating a great future including some exciting opportunities already in the pipeline.

Delivering Under Lockdown

BioBlitz

In 2020 NHC continued to show leadership in the development of BioBlitz as a format for public engagement in biological recording and citizen science, representing the West of England in the 3rd international City Nature Challenge. NHC represents Bristol & Bath City Region and spearheads UK participation in this global race for citizens to generate the most wildlife records data possible in 4 days.

City Nature Challenge

April 2020

One of the few programmes running under England's first full lockdown, City Nature Challenge reached new audiences, got press attention and demonstrated what was possible as we empowered residents of the West of England to observe and record wildlife from their windows, gardens and on their daily outdoor exercise using a free mobile phone app.

Leading a national collaboration, we enlisted the help of enthusiastic influencers on Instagram to reach beyond the region and build a new online volunteer community.

56%

increase in participation

1,044

online event views

8,875

species records collected

51

DataBlitz volunteers

550

iNaturalist observers (regional)

27

volunteer recorders trained

Collaborated with **10** other cities partnerships and **30** social media influencers to activate national community of **4,661** recorders in lockdown generating **71,511** national records

Festival Of Nature

Bringing together content from across the partnership under a common framework for engagement, Festival of Nature is the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world delivering an exciting new programme across the West of England each year since 2003.

Antarctica Day

June 2020

Whilst our usual programme of large-scale events was curtailed by lockdown, we used the FON brand to pivot existing grant commitments to pilot fully online forms of engagement. We used the celebration of 200 years of Antarctic exploration to provide NHC partners with an online platform to test a series of formats for delivering activities digitally. This built on pilot work done in 2019 where we delivered the world's first digital environmental festival alongside our live events programme and we've been sharing the learning with organisations ever since.

4,745

people logged in to watch the events

376

people asked questions/left comments

5

sessions showcasing different formats and partner content

Communicate

Started in 2004, Communicate is an annual environmental communication conference bringing together a diverse group of delegates each year to develop their skills, share best practice and debate latest issues in science communication, nature conservation and engaging people with the natural world.

Communicate 2020

November 2020

Delivered during England's second national lockdown, Communicate 2020 was designed as an entirely online experience, pioneering the use of specialist conferencing software to create and deliver an engaging 2-day event and push the boundaries of what can be achieved in digital formats. With efforts to make the conferencing as accessible as possible we convened our largest conference ever with over 800 delegates representing over 250 organisations.

453%

increase in attendance

862

delegates registered

220

organisations represented

85

speakers

10.5

hours average time online per delegate

78%

of delegates rated excellent value

Strengthening The Support Network

Convening Power

At a time where unexpected and catastrophic capacity pressures on organisations put partnership working at risk of being deprioritised, NHC were able to consolidate our core communities of practice and use the opportunity to support and convene these intersecting sectors by providing platforms for organisations working with reduced staffing through lockdown.

Festival Of Nature

Direct delivery to public audiences in the region as well as regional, national and international festival communities of practice

Bioblitz

national and international biological recording and citizen science community of practice

Communicate

environmental communications sector of the UK and beyond

Supporting Partner Priorities

Looking beyond our three core programmes above, we found new ways to work with Consortium members to make things happen together. These projects provided opportunities to support delivery of partners individual priorities, build capacity and facilitate collaboration between partners.

West Of England Nature Partnership Conference

Sharing our digital learning to support NHC members who are part of the WENP network by co-delivering the annual WENP conference 2020

Future Parks Accelerator

Developing our learning and evaluation portfolio and working closely on the engagement aspects of this major programme involving several NHC partners

Futures X Instagram

Exploring new formats for partnering with social media influencers to cocreate content as part of major University partnership project

Collaborative Funding Bids

Developing our capacity for research bids including NERC citizen science joint bid with UWE Bristol and The Natural History Museum

Bristol Ecological Emergency

Coordinating the strategy with Avon Wildlife Trust, involving other NHC partners and leading a series of launch conversations with Bristol's Mayor's office

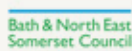
NHC has supported 344 organisations over the last three years*

and we have worked with another 30 in 2020

*through subsidised involvement in Festival of Nature or Communicate

*and/or part of our peer-to-peer learning around BioBlitz

The Natural History Consortium is a charitable partnership between 13 organisations engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action



BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Reference and administrative details

Company number:	06472186
Charity number:	1123432
Registered office:	1 Little King Street Bristol BS1 4HW
Bankers:	The Co-operative Bank Kings Valley Yew Street Stockport SK4 2JY
Independent Examiners:	Linden Accountants Limited Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburghs Bristol BS2 9LB

Key management personnel

Trustees:	Justin Morris – Bristol Zoo Ian Barrett – Avon Wildlife Trust Peter Ball – Independent Trustee Martin Brasher – Independent Trustee Rosa Robinson - Independent Trustee
Principal Staff:	Savita Willmott (Chief Executive)
Company Secretary:	Savita Willmott

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14th January 2008 and registered as a charity on 3 April 2008.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The Consortium has 14 partners, which work together in the following way:

Members:

Bristol Zoo Gardens and Avon Wildlife Trust are members of the organisation. In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, each member has the right to appoint one representative to the Board of Trustees. The members also each have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Associate members (Consortium members):

Bath & North East Somerset Council, BBC, Bristol City Council, Forestry England, Natural England, University of Bristol, University of the West of England, University of Bath, National Trust, Wildfowl Wetlands Trust, and The Woodland Trust are associate members (Consortium members). In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles they have the right to appoint one representative to the Steering Group.

Organisational structure

The Consortium undertakes a range of activities that are managed in the following way:

Trustees – The Trustees undertake financial responsibility for the organisation in accordance with charity law. The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis.

The Trustees are recruited and appointed from each of the Consortium’s legal members, one from each, as well as independent Trustees as co-opted by The Board. Members of the board operate a “rolling chair” to lead each meeting.

Steering Group – The Steering Group undertake responsibility for all strategic planning and development for the organisation. The Steering Group meets every two months.

Risk Management

The steering group and the Trustees have considered the key risks facing the Consortium and have taken steps to mitigate them.

Trustees’ responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Company law requires the Trustee Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustee Board should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee Board is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

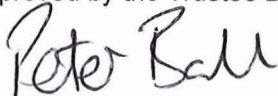
The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity’s website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Members of the Trustee Board, who are directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 14.

In accordance with company law, as the charity’s Trustees, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity’s Independent Examiner is unaware; and
- As the Trustees of the charity we have taken all steps that ought to have been taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity’s Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustee Board on _____ and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Peter Ball (On behalf of Trustees)

.....
Date

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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


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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed: 
Name: DAVID BAPTISTE ACPA
Address: LINDEN ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED, SCRAPSTONE HOUSE, 21 SEVIER STREET, BRISTOL, BS2 9LB
Date: 29/09/2021

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2020 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum & Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015). The company has taken advantage of the exemption to not have to prepare a strategic report in accordance with "The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013".

The charity's legal name remains Bristol Natural History Consortium, however the operating and public name for the partnership is The Natural History Consortium (NHC)

1. Our purposes and activities

The mission statement and objectives are regularly reviewed on an annual basis by Consortium members.

1.1 Our mission statement:

The Natural History Consortium - Engaging people to take action for the natural world through collaboration

1.2 Our objectives:

The company's charitable objects are to advance the public understanding of wildlife and the natural environment and their conservation. It achieves this by:

- Delivering entertaining and informative events and activities that inspire greater public interest, volunteering and action for nature
- Facilitating, developing, and disseminating novel communication techniques that engage the widest possible audience
- Building, supporting and piloting effective partnerships that bring together diverse organisations that face similar challenges and issues, and help organisations learn from each other

1.3 Ensuring our work delivers our objectives

The Consortium's Trustees and Steering Group review progress of the partnership and activities through regular Trustees' meetings and bi-monthly Steering Group meetings. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how our activities will contribute to and deliver our mission statement.

1.4 Our activities

We carry out these objectives through a range of activities, guided by our mission statement:

- Festival of Nature – an annual public festival
- Communicate – an annual conference and an online community supported by research and resources.
- Education projects – a range of projects with multiple partners across the UK focused on both informal and formal learning opportunities.
- Research and evaluation.
- Governance and management.

1.5 How our activities deliver public benefit

The relationship of our activities to the target beneficiaries are described below. All of our charitable activities focus on environmental communication.

Covid-19 impact on 2020 activities

NHC's activities were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdowns that took place in the spring and autumn of 2020. Elements of usual programming, such as large-scale live events during Festival of Nature, City Nature Challenge and Communicate were adapted to a digital setting.

1.5.1 NHC Volunteer Programme

NHC runs an on-going, active volunteer programme designed to train and support students, those looking to develop skills, and those looking to make a change of career. In 2020 the volunteering programme focused on digitally engaging with volunteers

throughout City Nature Challenge. Using the Festival of Nature Instagram account NHC also ran a digital volunteering pilot supporting an online community of Instagrammers who post exclusively about nature and wildlife encouraging them to collaboratively create content promoting the challenge. This group comprised of 30 people who had significant follower numbers and the pilot format was later repeated in November 2020.

In 2014 NHC established an independent group, Bristol Nature Network (BNN), in response to demand from volunteers for year-round activity targeting people between 18-30 year's old. In 2020 NHC worked with the Bristol Nature Network committee to organise a "relaunch" of the network with the aim to encourage a more diverse membership and empower members to take a more active role in the running of activities.

1.5.2 Programmes

Please see pages 2-4 for an outline of programme activities in our Highlights document.

2. Our future plans

2.1 Volunteer Programme 2021

In 2021 NHC is looking into how to further up-skill and train volunteers in the lead-up to the Festival of Nature programme. Building on the success of its online engagement in 2020 for City Nature Challenge, NHC will work with online communities and the Bristol Nature Network to run training events and volunteering opportunities in 2021. We will also seek to develop our digital volunteering programme, working with others, in order to build on learning during 2020.

2.2. Programmes

Festival of Nature 2021 will be held in the summer between April and June 2021. The festival will launch during City Nature Challenge as NHC will once again direct the Bristol and Bath City Regions' participation between 30th – 3rd May. Building on successful elements of the 2020 challenge we will work with Festival volunteers to engage with a wide audience of citizens across the Bristol and Bath region. NHC will work with consortium members to facilitate a programme of collaboratively organised events between City Nature Challenge and the end of June. Building on learning in 2020 and 2019, NHC will organise the majority of festival events so that they are accessible to audiences either in person, or digitally.

Communicate 2021 will be held across three events in June, September and January 2022, with the intention of the January event to be run as a hybrid activity

National and European BioBlitz

NHC will continue to be active in the national and international BioBlitz community and support the UK community of practice around the format. This will include using the *City Nature Challenge* as a catalyst for partnership and opportunity for research into the effectiveness of new platforms and formats for engagement with nature. Plans for 2021 include:

- Refresh of infrastructure and directory for 2021 BioBlitz events
- Conducting research tackling some of the basic gaps in knowledge around participation.
- Developing and disseminating appropriate tool-kits/training for members to support best practice in engagement and implementing framework

NHC will continue to co-chair the European BioBlitz Network taking an active role in developing international best practice and opportunities for partnership and joint funding bids. This will include influencing the transition from a funded working group under the international DITOS project to a less formal working group using learning from our experience in the UK. Throughout 2021 NHC will continue to support the regional and national Parks Accelerator programme by conducting innovative evaluation, learning and dissemination of local partnership delivery whilst sharing the national learning across the Communicate community.

2.3. Website

A major project for 2021 will be commissioning and designing a new website for the charity following an assessment of the current web presence.

3. Further notes to the accounts

Funds totalling £24,000 have been designated for use in 2021. This is comprised of £7500.00 for staffing costs for the Parks Accelerator project, and £16,500.00 for staffing and programme costs for City Nature Challenge and Festival of Nature 2021.

BRISTOL NATURAL HISTORY CONSORTIUM

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
INCOME FROM					
Donations	3	66,517	1,900	68,417	99,041
Other trading activities		-	-	-	117
Investments		-	-	-	-
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	4	37,310	20,770	58,080	131,660
Communicate Conference	4	32,963	4,380	37,343	42,120
Education and Engagement	4	52,987	4,380	57,367	32,642
<i>Other income</i>		-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		189,777	31,430	221,207	305,580
EXPENDITURE ON:					
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Festival of Nature	5	55,206	6,977	62,184	206,088
Communicate Conference	5	60,449	1,736	62,186	50,637
Education and Engagement	5	46,998	1,736	48,734	10,784
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	162,654	10,450	173,104	267,509
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		27,123	20,980	48,103	38,071
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		31,904	-	31,904	(6,167)
Total funds carried forward		59,027	20,980	80,007	31,904

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above.

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	<u>2020</u> £	<u>2019</u> £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible assets	8	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	9	62,993	78,663
Cash at bank and in hand		100,754	44,013
		163,747	122,676
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(83,740)	(90,772)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		80,007	31,904
TOTAL NET (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		80,007	31,904
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Restricted funds	13	20,980	-
Unrestricted funds	14	35,027	31,904
Designated funds	15	24,000	-
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		80,007	31,904

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue.

Approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by



(On behalf of Trustees)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Bristol Natural History Consortium meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) **Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The Trustees have considered the 12 month period from the date of approval of the financial statements. The Trustees note that the position of unrestricted reserves has improved since 31 December 2019.

At the time of filing the Trustees are mitigating the impact of Covid-19 on the charity's finances. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

(c) **Income**

All income is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Intangible income is recognised as an incoming resource where the provider of the service has incurred a financial cost. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable, unless they specifically relate to a future period, in which case they are deferred.

(d) **Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Most expenditure is directly attributable to a specific activity and is allocated to that activity. However, the costs of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on core staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

• Festival of Nature	30%
• Communicate Conference	30%
• Education & Engagement	40%

(e) **Donated services and facilities**

Donated services & facilities are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received. This will be the price the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for a service or facility of equivalent utility to the charity.

(f) **Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held is included when receivable by the charity.

(g) **Funds accounting**

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

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

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each funds is included in the notes to the accounts.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) **Tangible fixed assets**

The cost of tangible fixed assets is written-off by equal annual instalments over their expected useful life as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	4 years straight line

(i) **Pension costs**

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The employer contributions made by the charity are treated as an expense and disclosed in note 7 to the accounts.

(j) **Operating leases**

The charity classifies the lease of its registered office as an operating lease. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease. BNHC had a lease of a commercial office between 2015 and 2020, the annual rent being £4,760. This lease was surrendered in August 2020. The £3,570 was a deposit originally paid in 2015 and returned in November 2020.

2 PRIOR PERIOD COMPARATIVES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
INCOME FROM			
Donations	71,041	28,000	99,041
Other trading activities	117	-	117
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	98,624	33,036	131,660
Communicate Conference	42,120	-	42,120
Education and Engagement	32,642	-	32,642
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME	244,545	61,036	305,581
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Festival of Nature	145,559	60,529	206,088
Communicate Conference	45,637	5,000	50,637
Education and Engagement	10,784	-	10,784
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	201,980	65,529	267,509
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	42,565	(4,493)	38,071
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

3 DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Member subscriptions	65,000	-	65,000	70,000
<i>Donations:</i>				
In kind donations	-	1,900	1,900	28,000
Company donations	1,517	-	1,517	941
Individual donations	-	-	-	100
	<hr/> 66,517	<hr/> 1,900	<hr/> 68,417	<hr/> 99,041

A summary of the in kind donated services is set out below:

	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Design costs	1,000	10,000
Use of exhibition space/site services (Festival of Nature)	-	13,000
Use of exhibition space (Communicate)	-	5,000
Marketing support	-	-
Event consumables	200	
Storage space	<hr/> 700	
	<hr/> 1,900	<hr/> 28,000

4 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Festival of Nature			-	
Sponsorship	-	-	-	9,600
Sales	7,531	-	7,531	46,303
Grants	29,779	20,770	50,549	75,758
	<hr/> 37,310	<hr/> 20,770	<hr/> 58,080	<hr/> 131,660
Communicate Conference				
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-
Sales	16,134	-	16,134	27,020
Grants	16,829	4,380	21,209	15,100
	<hr/> 32,963	<hr/> 4,380	<hr/> 37,343	<hr/> 42,120
Education & Engagement				
<i>Parks Foundation</i>			-	-
<i>Parks Accelerator</i>	52,987	4,380	57,367	22,642
Grants-Parks Foundation	-	-	-	10000
	<hr/> 52,987	<hr/> 4,380	<hr/> 57,367	<hr/> 32,642

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

5 TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Staff Costs £	Other Direct Costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Festival of Nature	35,340	26,843	62,184	206,088
Communicate Conference	36,489	25,696	62,186	50,637
Education & Engagement	36,856	11,880	48,734	10,784
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	108,684	64,419	173,104	267,509
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Event & project costs	2,769	68,754
Premises costs	26,851	9,383
Office costs	8,922	13,104
Legal & professional costs	8,524	8,996
Depreciation	-	-
Miscellaneous fees	17,353	12,743
VAT overclaimed in previous periods	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	64,419	112,979
	<hr/>	<hr/>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Festival of Nature	55,206	6,977	62,184	206,088
Communicate Conference	60,449	1,736	62,186	50,637
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Education & Engagement				
BioBlitz	-	-	-	945
National Bioblitz	-	-	-	-
WENP	-	-	-	-
Bristol Nature Network	-	-	-	-
Erasmus	-	-	-	-
Places Where People Live	-	-	-	-
NERC	-	-	-	-
Parks Foundation	-	-	-	3,617
Parks Accelerator	46,998	1,736	48,734	6,222
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Sub-total</i>	46,998	1,736	48,734	10,784
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	162,654	10,450	173,104	267,509
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

6 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR

	2020 £	2019 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	-	-
Independent Examination	550	550
Accounting & Book-keeping services	3,845	7,459
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

7 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

Staff costs were as follows:	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	90,399	87,867
Employer's National Insurance	3,857	5,316
Employer's pensions	2,066	2,192
Freelance staff	12,363	31,154
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	108,684	126,529
	<hr/>	<hr/>

No employee earned £60,000 p.a. or more. The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2019 - 4).

The charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2019: £nil), neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2019: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2019: £nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £21,097.39 (2019: £29,971.24).

8 TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Computer Equipment	Office Furniture	Total
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 January 2020	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2020	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2020	-	-	-
Charge for the year	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2020	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2020	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2019	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

9 DEBTORS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	48,956	73,436
Prepayments & accrued income	2,466	1,727
Taxation and social security	7,721	
Other debtors	3,850	3,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	62,993	78,663
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The trade debtors include a credit of £20,224 in relation to the BBC. A credit was raised in 2018 and annual memberships for the BBC have been set against this. This will continue until the credit has been used up.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

10 CREDITORS	2020 £	2019 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade creditors	8,481	17,971
Taxation and social security	2,268	4,313
Accruals	1,800	3,165
Deferred income	71,000	65,000
Other creditors	190	323
	83,740	90,772
	83,740	90,772
11 DEFERRED INCOME		
Deferred income comprises subscriptions and grants invoiced in advance.		
	2020 £	2019 £
Balance as at 1 January 2020	65,000	
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(65,000)	-
Amount deferred in year	71,000	65,000
	71,000	65,000
	71,000	65,000
12 OPERATING LEASES		
The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:		
	2020 £	2019 £
Not later than 1 year	-	4,760
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	3,570
	-	8,330
	-	8,330

BNHC had a lease of a commercial office between 2015 and 2020, the annual rent being £4,760. This lease was surrendered in August 2020. The £3,570 was a deposit originally paid in 2015 and returned in November 2020.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

13 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2020</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	At 31 December <u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£
<i>Bristol Festival of Nature</i>	-	22,670	6,977	15,693
<i>Communicate</i>	-	4,380	1,736	2,644
<i>Education & Engagement</i>				
<i>Parks Accelerator</i>	-	4,380	1,736	2,644
	-	31,430	10,450	20,980

Purposes of Restricted Funds

Postcode Local Trust

This funding is in support City Nature Challenge.

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

This funding is in support of City Nature Challenge.

South Gloucestershire Council

This funding is in support of City Nature Challenge.

National Lottery

This funding is in support of covering core costs.

14 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2020</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	31,904	189,777	(162,654)	(24,000)	35,027

15 DESIGNATED FUNDS

	At 1 January <u>2020</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	Transfers Between <u>Funds</u>	At 31 December <u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	-	-	-	24,000	24,000

Designated funds consist of £7,500 of funds received from Bristol City Council for the staffing of the Future Parks Accelerator projects, to finalise work on this project and £16,500 towards costs for our public facing programmes, City Nature Challenge and Festival of Nature.

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Designated funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£		£
Cash at bank and in hand	55,774	20,980	24,000	100,754
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(20,747)	-		(20,747)
	35,027	20,980	24,000	80,007

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

17 RELATED PARTIES

Avon Wildlife Trust

Avon Wildlife Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Lisa Jones. Avon Wildlife Trust is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Bath & North East Somerset Council is represented on the Steering Group by Mark Minkley. Bath & North East Somerset Council is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

BBC

BBC is represented on the Steering Group by Stephanie Marshall. BBC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

Bristol City Council

Bristol City Council is represented on the Steering Group by Richard Ennion and Ray Barnett. BCC is a subscribing organisation and paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

Bristol Zoo Gardens

Bristol Zoo Gardens is represented on the Steering Group by Simon Garrett. As a subscribing organisation, Bristol Zoo paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

Defra

Defra is represented on the Steering Group by Claire Holland and as a subscribing organisation paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

Forestry England

Forestry England is represented on the Steering Group by Libby Burke and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

National Trust

National Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Nerys Jones and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

University of West of England

The University of the West of England is represented on the Steering Group by Jackie Rogers and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Rosie Walker and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

University of Bristol

The University of Bristol is represented on the Steering Group by Rhys Charles and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

University of Bath

The University of Bath is represented on the Steering Group by Heather Featherstone and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust is represented on the Steering Group by Mark Simpson and is a subscribing organisation which paid £5,000 to BNHC in 2020.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

18 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Trustees noted in the 31 December 2019 accounts that HMRC was conducting a VAT enquiry into the charity, specifically looking at the treatment of membership subscriptions. This matter came to a final agreement in March 2021, and the charity was not liable for any payments to HMRC.